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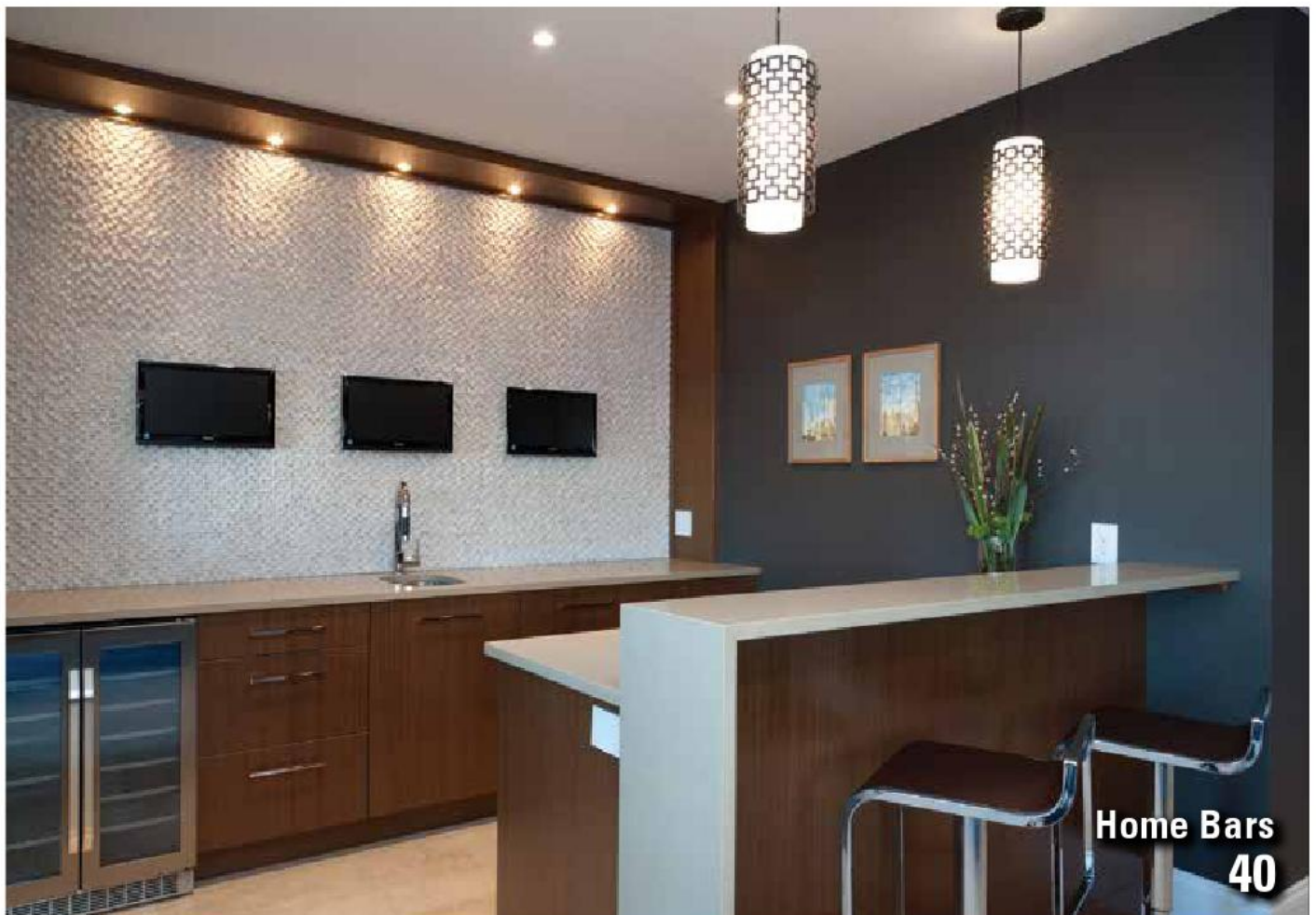
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Home Bars
40

Photo: D&M Images

Cover: An intimate glimpse inside the University President's residence. Story begins pg. 8. Photo: Heather Fritz

HOME Front



Photo: Adrienne Perrot

Hello to Winter

We're excited about what we've wrapped up in this issue and we can't wait until you open it!

University of Saskatchewan President Ilene Busch-Vishniac and husband Ethan Vishniac graciously welcomed Saskatoon HOME inside the historic President's Residence. Finished in 1913, the greystone icon has surveyed downtown Saskatoon for a century and now you can have an intimate look inside. Our thanks to everyone involved for their generous help in bringing this story together. And of course, our sincere thanks to Drs. Ilene Busch-Vishniac and Ethan Vishniac for their hospitality.

A few treats we have for you: Grab some snow inspiration from Tim Stone's backyard snow fort. It's a quinzee for those in the know, but if you're like Tim, reliving the glorious winters of his youth, then 'snow fort' is the ultimate retro experience. And if speed is your style, check out Poppa Ray's mega snow slide. The kids in the Belhumeur daycare don't spend any time being bored during the winter.

Making use of every space in your home is an art, and we have some ideas for you. Have a spare room collecting dust? Have a look at our One Room ||| Three Ways feature as a spare room is transformed into a fantastic walk-in closet.

Ever wondered about the trend in larger cities to have a professional chef in your home to cook for you and your guests? Well I did.

My husband and I invited some of our writers and our go-to photographer over to our home to enjoy a wonderful evening of good conversation, lovely wine and a sumptuous meal with Chef Simon Reynolds. In Craig Silliphant's column, find out why hiring a chef to come to your home creates a dining experience that is incredibly enjoyable, and really not that costly.

Home and hospitality, that's what we're all about. We love to hear what you think of our magazine and welcome suggestions for future articles. For the tech savvy, take a look at the current issue and all of our back issues through our App available in the App Store or go online to our website: www.saskatoon-home.ca.

Happy reading!

AMANDA SOULODRE
OWNER & PUBLISHER

Suggestions? Comments? Questions? Want to see back issues of HOME? Visit www.saskatoon-home.ca

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HOME

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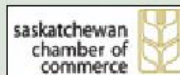
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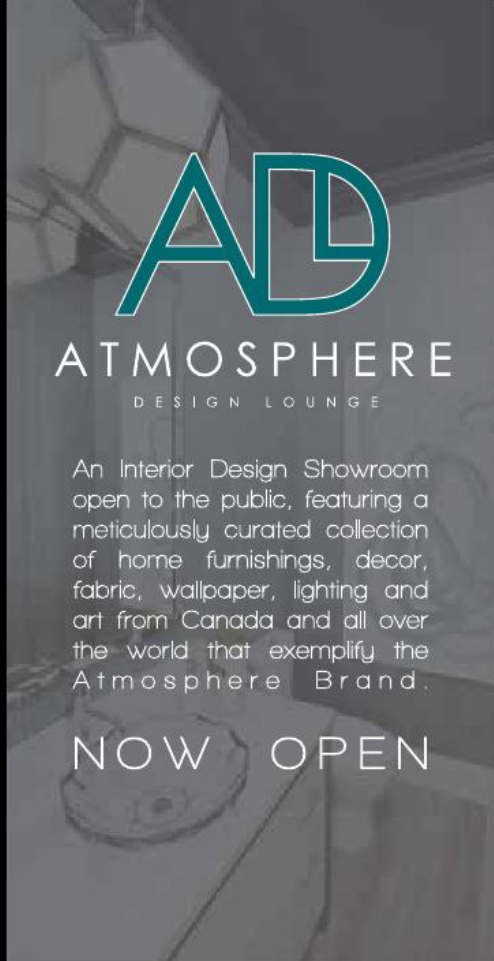
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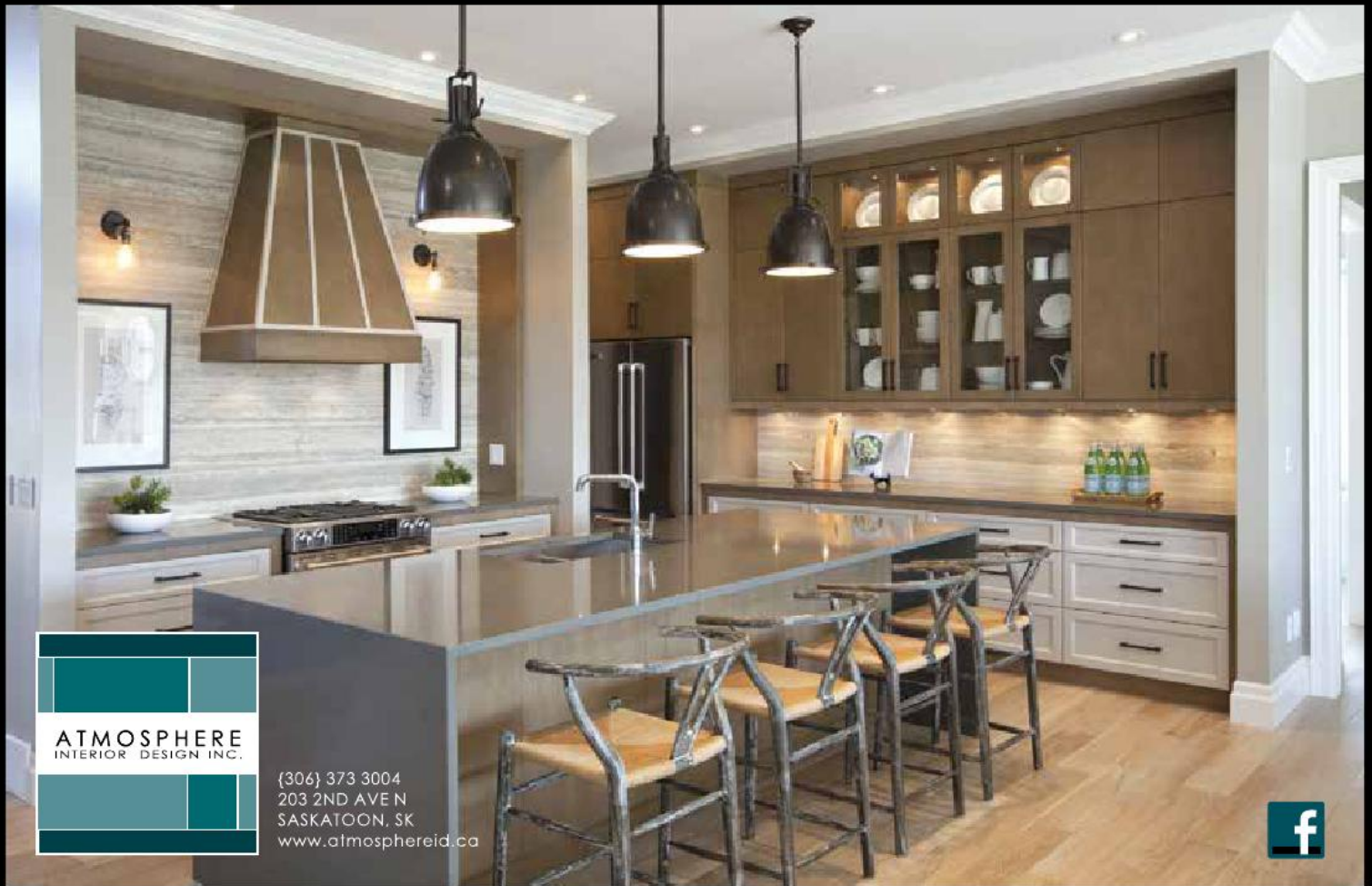
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Thank You To Our Winter Issue Reader Panel



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INTERESTING STORIES, SELECTED BY INTERESTING PEOPLE

Saskatoon HOME is proud to present our Winter 2013 Reader Panel – people from Saskatoon who helped us select the stories for this issue.

We are dedicated to Saskatoon content. There are lots of great things to write about – but which subjects will most interest our readers? To help us make that decision, we first create a list of possible story ideas. We give them to our reader panel

for their individual feedback and ranking, then compile the results to determine our final story list.

You don't need any special skills to be on our panel, and the time required is minimal. The only qualification is your sincere opinion as a reader. Your single task will be to look at the story suggestions and rank them in order of your preference. 

If you would like more information on being on a future reader panel, email info@saskatoon-home.ca with the subject line 'Reader Panel'.

We look forward to your interest – and your opinion!

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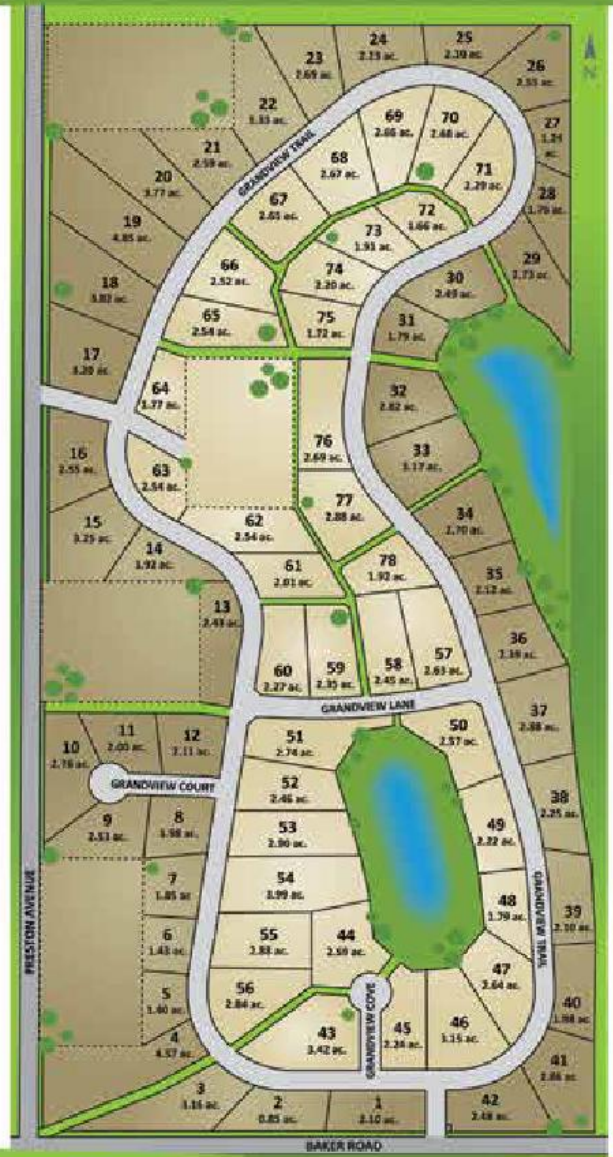
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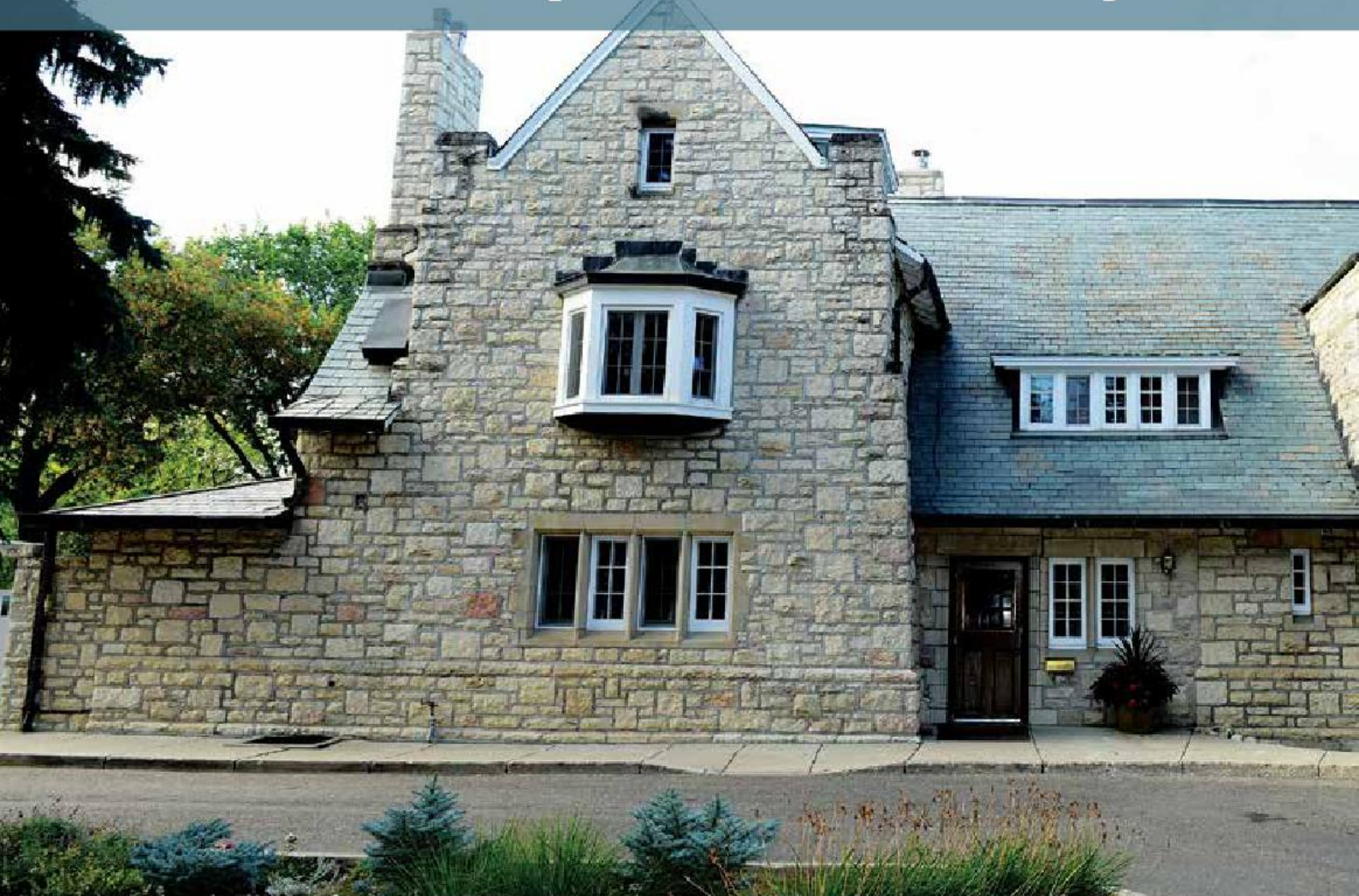


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THE PAST IS PRESENT

An Intimate Glimpse Inside University Residence



This Gothic sentinel has surveyed the river valley and downtown Saskatoon from a 2.1-acre parcel on the University campus since 1913. The President's Residence, perched atop the hillside overlooking the University Bridge, has been a familiar landmark for a century. The stately greystone facade peeks through the trees, and city folk look forward to the annual holiday lights. But few locals have seen the interior of this iconic building. Until now.

The residence has hosted many notable dignitaries, including various members of the Royal

the work of the institution. While a beacon of institutional constancy, it has also been the

niac, recently observed their first year in the residence and welcomed Saskatoon HOME inside for a visit.

"Call me Ilene," she says, pulling up a chair at the main floor kitchen table. This is the site of the most recent and most significant renovation in the century-old home. It was done as Ilene and Ethan waited in an apartment last year after arriving in Saskatoon to take up her new post as the University of Saskatchewan's ninth—and

The residence has hosted many notable dignitaries, including various members of the Royal Family, including The Queen and Prince Philip who've slept over.

Family. The Queen and Prince Philip have slept over. Its rooms have seen countless official dinners and gatherings to advance

private home of nine University presidents. The most recent, Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, and her husband Dr. Ethan Vish-

nt's Residence



 **KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER**



HEATHER FRITZ

first woman president, and vice-chancellor.

"We love living here," Ilene begins, "and it's great to be right on the river, to have this incredible view. It's quite spectacular, and we love to walk the dog along the Meewasin Trail!"

"Even in February," Ethan laughs. "We now have the warmest winter coats we've ever had in our lives."

Living in an historic site means getting comfortable with a home that is at once a

private space and very public University venue. At 10,000 square feet, there is plenty of room but most of the couple's 'at home' time is spent in the second floor living quarters.

"The residence is enormous, but well proportioned," explains Ilene. "The ground floor is very large and very good for entertaining, for hosting dinners and for visitors to the University. Yet our living space on the second floor is six times longer 

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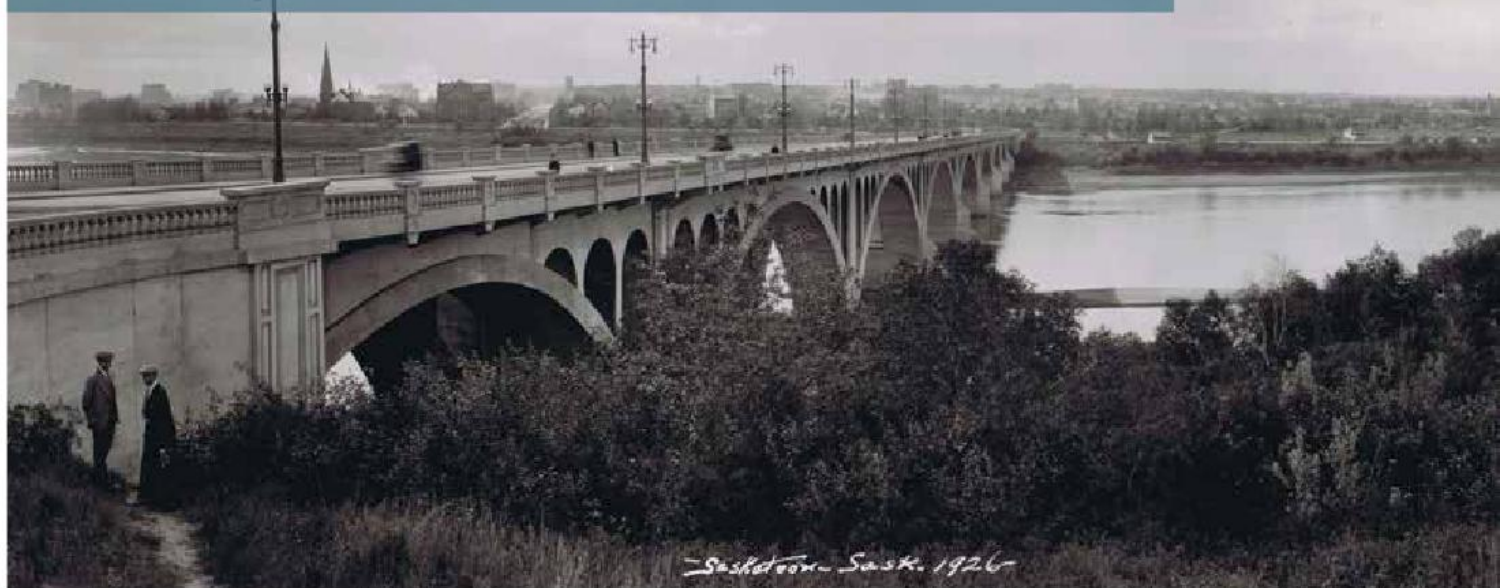
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This panoramic view of the President's residence and University Bridge was taken by Saskatoon photographer John W. Gibson in 1926. The multi-generational family business, once located on Broadway Avenue (where Pedestrian Shoe Fitting Centre is today), was contracted by the University over several decades. The University Archives has several hundred Gibson images.



than it is wide. Here, upstairs is like a bowling alley." Their puppy Nipin, Ethan adds, learned that with a running start, she could slide the entire hallway, gathering throw rugs with her as she went.

A Presidential Presence

Most Universities have an official residence for the president. But in the 1970s when campuses in North America were fraught with demonstrations of various sorts, many residences were converted

to alumni gathering spaces. Many presidents chose to live off campus. At this university, all nine presidents have lived on site, beginning with the first Walter Murray.

"I think if I had told the selection committee that I didn't want to live here, I may have lost the job," says Ilene. "This residence and that the president is here are key parts of this University's identity. The governors and I think the campus community appreciates the fact that the president is here, cognizant of what's going on. Most days I walk to my office, often with a stop at Starbucks for my fix."

Recent Renos

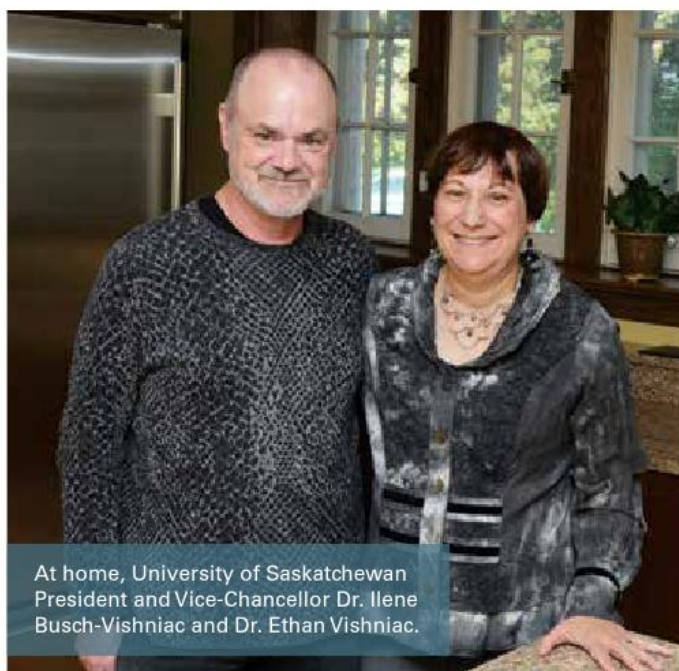
Construction began in 1910 and finished in 1913 at a cost of \$44,615. This was reportedly hugely embarrassing to President Murray, who was concerned about such an expense for his personal residence, despite it also serving as

a public building. Jean Murray, the president's daughter, remembered it smelled of wet plaster when they moved in.

"Peter and Janice very nicely invited us over to dinner here and gave us a tour before they left," says Ilene of former President MacKinnon and his wife, tenants for 13 years. "Literally as they moved out, workers came in behind to tear things up" in the main kitchen, a priority for upgrading. The incoming president did have some input on materials and colour selections.

Despite being an astrophysicist, Ethan "found this kitchen intimidating in the beginning," he says. He preferred to use the smaller kitchen upstairs in the living quarters. "The number of appliances required for a catering kitchen can be a bit overwhelming!"

Rooms with "ancient wallpaper" and dated fixtures will be attended to over time. Ilene and Ethan appreciated the opening



At home, University of Saskatchewan President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac and Dr. Ethan Vishniac.



Photo: University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections, B-266

of a wall in the master bedroom into a small bathroom to create an ensuite.

Formal and Informal Entertaining

In the formal dining room, Ilene pauses at the antique table, one used by many former presidents. On display in various leaded glass cabinets

are artifacts and pieces of china that have been given to the presidents over the years.

"This house can comfortably accommodate 60 to 65 people for a sit-down dinner," Ilene says. "At Christmas when the retirees come over, we must have 120 people. Ethan and I just stand at the door and

collect armloads of coats. We have wall-to-wall people. It's a great time."

The dining room, courtyard and back lawn accommodate gatherings like Board of Governors' dinners, convocation dinners, receptions for new faculty and people receiving honorary degrees and awards,

and official guests.

The President's Favourite Things

"Ethan and I are very informal. We like the catering kitchen because it's beautiful and comfortable, but the private kitchen upstairs has got to be my favourite spot," Ilene says. "In my opinion, it has the 

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best view in the entire house. We look to University Bridge, across the water to the Bessborough. As the sun sets," she adds, "we can sit and watch the colours paint the sky over downtown. It's breathtaking."

At the end of the main floor hallway, a grandfather clock stands silently in the same spot it has for decades. "It needs to be fixed," explains Ilene. "I understand there's only one person in Saskatchewan who can do it. He fixed a similar one in the Premier's office. He's Brent Butt's brother. I must get in touch to have this repaired."

The artwork is largely from the University's collection.

Ilene and Ethan were invited to choose pieces, and there is much of the couple's own artwork. Ethan's collection of fossils adorns the main dining room. "I tell people not all the fossils in this house live upstairs," Ilene laughs.

In an upstairs office, Ilene often works at the compact oak desk over which President Murray conducted the affairs of the University in the early 1900s.

While the President loves many spaces inside, one of her favourites is the grounds themselves. The southwest lawn sweeps along the length of the property and disappears into the bush along the riverbank. 



The President's favourite view in the residence can be admired from the breakfast bar in the upstairs galley kitchen. "Sunsets," she says, "are breathtaking."



The house features many intimate gathering alcoves, and the original woodwork has been carefully preserved.

Photo: University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections, A-5505



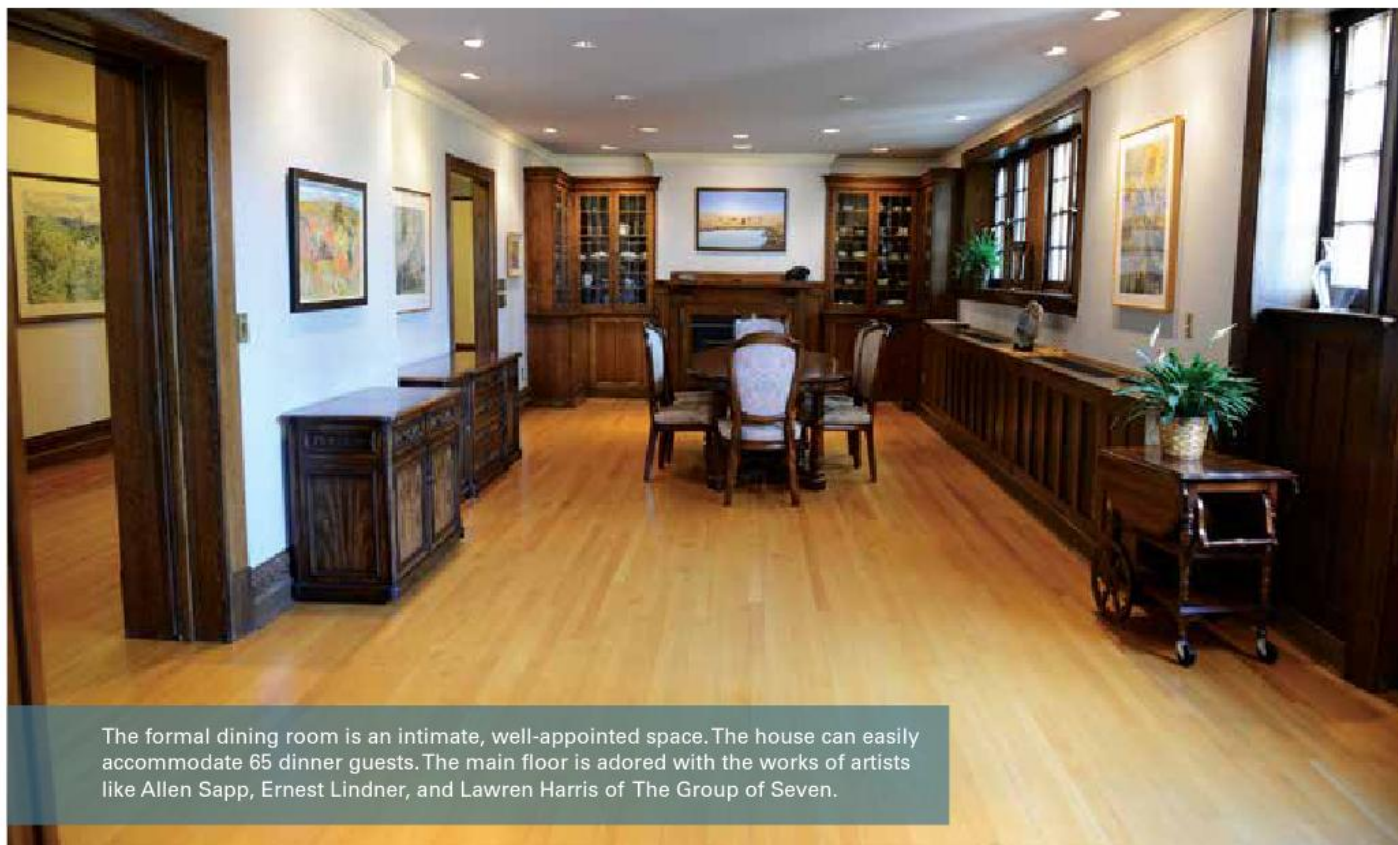
The catering kitchen on the main floor is the site of the most recent renovation, done in 2012 just prior to the new president moving in. It is well used by the University chef and Food Services staff for various events and meetings in the residence.



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The formal dining room is an intimate, well-appointed space. The house can easily accommodate 65 dinner guests. The main floor is adored with the works of artists like Allen Sapp, Ernest Lindner, and Lawren Harris of The Group of Seven.

"In the fall, we set up tables. All the vice-presidents came with their families," she says. "We set up a volleyball net, barbequed and the dog tried to steal food from everybody. It was so lovely." Rabbits and squirrels are plentiful, and last fall, Ilene and Ethan watched a

coyote that came daily to forage among the rotting apples and pears in the orchard. "I think he was doing the equivalent of coming by every day for a beer!" This fall, the horticulture club was invited to do the harvest.

Safe and Secure

A dog-loving family, Ilene and Ethan never had a home security system before. After setting off the alarm several times during the first week, they now have the Campus Security phone number handy. The building and grounds are

expansive, so there is also video surveillance. "The dog barks a lot, too, but at least she doesn't disturb any neighbours!"

Technically, it's private property but people often picnic on the grounds. When the lights go up for the Christmas holi-



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days, people walk down the drive to look. The caretakers approached Ilene and Ethan about their preferences. The couple advised them to do whatever was the tradition, so city residents can look to the east for the familiar blue lights again this season.

"This house is so respectful of the University's history," says Ilene. "We do need to share our personal area with historic space used to entertain on behalf of the University. It is a fabulous place to live and work." (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier

Today several comfortable lounges offer seating areas for informal gatherings and meetings. The residence had seven fireplaces in 1913; today, three functional ones have been converted to gas.

Additional photos and information found at www.saskatoon-home.ca/extra



ORIGINAL HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 7 bedrooms, including 2 maids' bedrooms and 1 bath, though there is no evidence maids ever lived in the house
- 7 fireplaces with inglenooks; 6 remain, 3 on main converted to gas, 3 no longer functional
- 3 ½ bathrooms
- Billiard room, furnace coal room
- Dining room, kitchen, drawing room, reception room, library
- Verandah, porch and galleries (enclosed balconies or outdoor spaces)



This historic photo was taken in the 1930s. The University of Saskatchewan's first president Walter C. Murray and Mrs. Christina Murray hosted an annual Christmas party at the president's residence for children of staff and faculty.

Photo: University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections, A-2848

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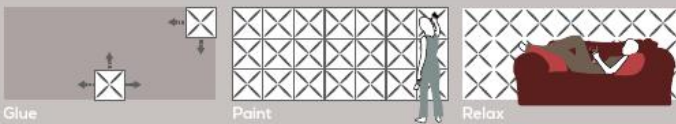
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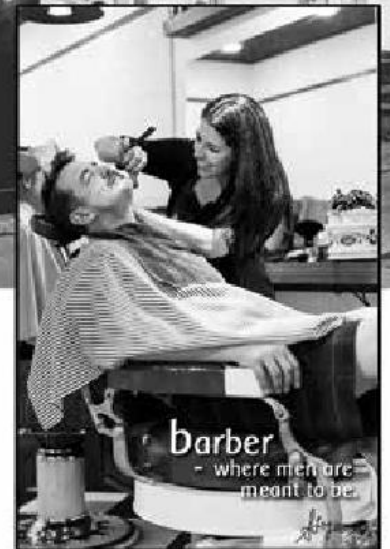
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ONE ROOM ||| THREE WAYS



Photo: Heather Fritz

Ever thought about changing that underused room in your home into a more useful space? Many readers of Saskatoon HOME have.

Whether you are an empty nester eyeing up a bedroom since your kids flew the coop, or if you're someone with stagnant space in need of inspiration, transforming an extra room is tempting.

Claudette and Ryan thought the perfect new life for one of their spare rooms was that of a walk-in closet.

Their idea inspired us. We asked three space designers to create a new plan for this couple. At the end, you'll meet each of them. Then it's your job to guess which organizer transformed which space. Can you do it? (Answers provided on page 21.)

Meet Claudette and Ryan

Profession:

Her - Auto Adjuster. Him - Owner, R1 Developments (Landscape Developer), Motor Coach Driver (P.A. Northern) and Building Manager.

Background Information:

Claudette is a professional businesswoman with 4 grown children and 4 grandbabies. Ryan is a professional landscape designer with attention to detail with one grown child.

Personal Design Taste:

Her - Modern, warm, inviting, with a touch of antiques.

Him - Modern, warm, inviting to our needs.

Goal of the Bedroom Design:

Living in a late 50's bungalow, closet space is an issue. We wanted to change a bedroom into a master walk-in closet to suit our needs.

Must Haves:

Room for all clothes, shoes, purses, and accessories. We want to keep the integrity of the layout of the house, and have to be able to change the room back to a bedroom in the event we sell the house when we retire and the new owners have a need for a bedroom.

Would Like:

A new house...not an option at our age.

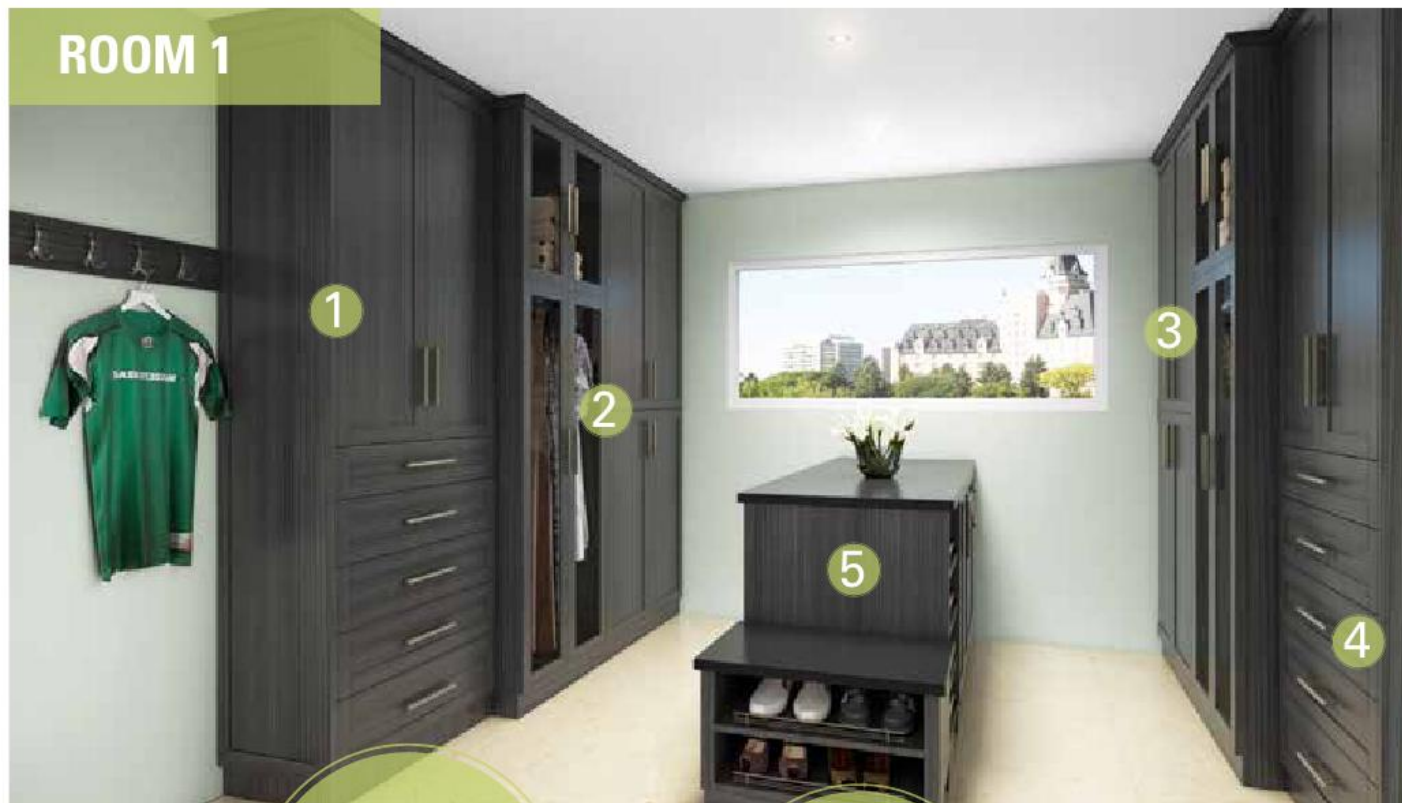
Likes:

User friendly.

Dislikes:

Too much colour.

ROOM 1



1 - Behind the doors are adjustable shelves. The jewellery drawers are equipped with felt dividers and wood veneer drawer boxes.

4 - Similar to the left half of the room, this unit is male friendly with a belt drawer and felt lined dividers.

2 - The middle unit was built to accommodate long hanging garments and shelves behind glass doors.

3 - The end units on either side hold two levels of hanging bars behind doors.

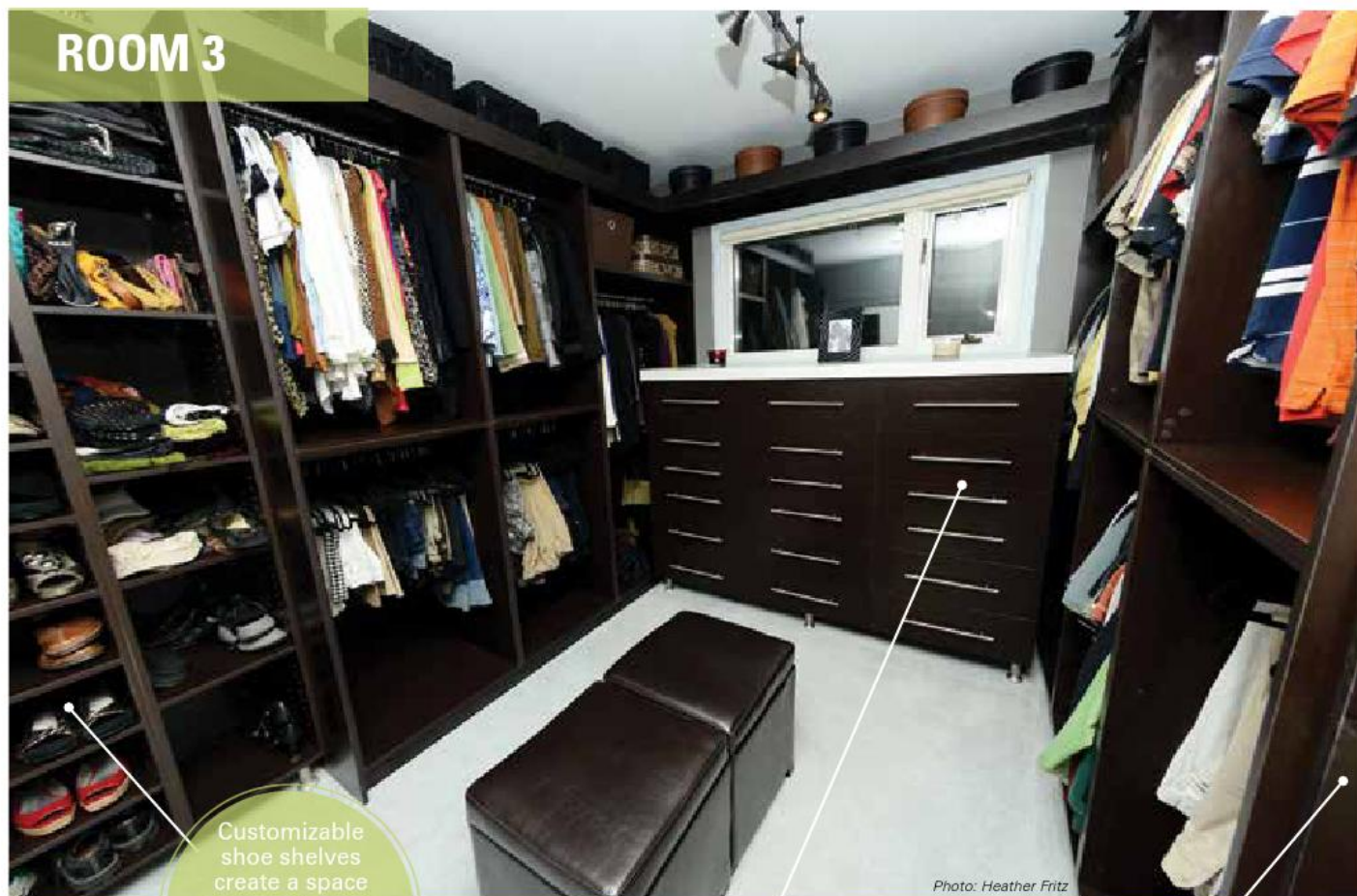
5 - The peninsula features shelves behind doors, a drawer with hamper below and an angled shoe shelf with satin finished fences. The front of the peninsula features angled shoe shelves with a padded seat.



ROOM 2



ROOM 3



Customizable shoe shelves create a space to organize any height of shoe or boot in an accessible way.



Stacked drawers create a streamlined look with storage dividers added for the top jewelry drawer, and left open for sweaters and other accessories.



End cap open shelves add an area to display personal items to add aesthetic appeal to the space.



MEET THE DESIGNERS

We asked each of the closet organizers the same three questions:

- 1) What should a client do to prepare before talking to a designer who can help get them organized?
- 2) If you could give someone one organization tip they could use in their closet today, what would it be?
- 3) Favourite product in the room you designed?



Gary Duchscher
Owner, Creative Closet Design

Gary Duchscher

Owner, Creative Closet Design

1. Have a time frame in mind and be available so that things can progress smoothly. Put some thought into colour and finishes. Drop into our showroom to get an educated idea of different products and price points.
2. Give away things which you are not using. It will make your space less cluttered and we can do a much better job for you.
3. The oversized dresser with lots of storage plus ample accessory drawers.



Photo: Heather Fritz



Dwayne Turcotte
Franchise Owner, Stor-X
Organizing Systems

Dwayne Turcotte

Franchise Owner, Stor-X Organizing Systems

1. Simply make a list of what you feel are the problem areas and leave the rest to us.
2. Everyone needs to take time to go through their wardrobe and decide what they really use. In the end it brings calm to your life and allows you to put your best foot forward.
3. The overall look and practicality of the design and the functionality of having a seat at the end of the peninsula near the door.



Designer's favourite item.



Julie Arthurs
Designer, Redl Kitchens

Julie Arthurs

Designer, Redl Kitchens

1. Sit down and critique your space. Explore the areas that have room for improvement as well as the areas that satisfy certain needs. Starting this way will ensure that function, as well as aesthetic, is improved.
2. Be realistic about what you need to see every day. Most of us don't have as much closet space as we would like so you may need to find a less convenient home for special occasion and seasonal items.
3. The acrylic cubbies are by far my favourite item and were initially designed as shoe condos, but since they come in custom sizes I have used them here for scarves and ties.



Designer's favourite item.

Answer Key

Three rooms, three designers. Did you correctly guess which designer created which room?

Room 1 (page 18) - Dwayne Turcotte || Room 2 (page 19) - Julie Arthurs || Room 3 (page 20) - Gary Duchscher



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Prodigal Chef Comes Back to Saskatoon



PATRICIA DAWN ROBERTSON



HEATHER FRITZ

Lakeview resident Dale MacKay is the latest addition to the growing ranks of Saskatoon's hip, young move-backs. MacKay, who describes himself as a mellow guy, has returned to his hometown to re-boot his career and spend more time with family and friends.

"I chose Saskatoon as home and a location for my business. The commercial rent is a fraction of the price in Vancouver and the economy here is booming," says MacKay. These two factors combined to create an opportunity for the young chef.

When he landed back in the

city, MacKay chose to live on the east side of Saskatoon in Lakeridge so his son, Ayden, could attend grade six at an established school in a family-focused area. When the father and son share some down time, they enjoy watching Blades games and dining out at Keo's Kitchen on Broadway. "When

I'm not working, I like to eat at home one night and then dine out the next," says MacKay.

The vagabond chef grew up in the Lawson Heights neighbourhood until he decamped to Vancouver to launch his cooking career. Next he was on to Whistler before making the culinary pilgrimage



Chef Dale MacKay with his son Ayden.

to Europe in the early 2000s.

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay hired MacKay to work at his London restaurant, Claridge's. The professional time with Ramsay took MacKay to Tokyo and New York before he returned to Vancouver in 2007 to assume the job of

executive chef at a restaurant called Lumière, which was owned by über-chef Daniel Boulud.

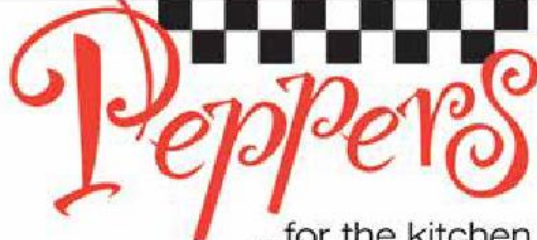
In 2011, the chef's profile skyrocketed when MacKay was named Top Chef in Canada. MacKay took his winnings and invested them

in two Vancouver restaurants, Ensemble and EnsembleTap. In 2012, MacKay made the difficult choice to depart the city due to high rents. Then he made the life-changing decision, hit the re-set button and moved home to Saskatoon.

MacKay's relocation is good

news for local foodies. Ayden Kitchen & Bar is slated to open in November 2013. The fare is homey and includes an on-site butcher shop. The restaurant features a rustic Prohibition décor and is located in the historic McLean Building on Third Avenue. Ayden will 🍴





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also be helping out after school in the family business. "He's not unhappy about the name," laughs MacKay.

"I'm really, really happy about being back home in Saskatoon," says MacKay. "I haven't missed Vancouver one bit. Ayden is enjoying it here, too, and he's really settling into the city." 

Patricia Dawn Robertson

DALE MACKAY'S CHEF-READY HOME KITCHEN ADVICE

Cooking Island

For home kitchens, I always find that island-style kitchens are the best. Not just for the seating area but also in the actual cooking area for your stove and preparation site. The venting hood should originate from the roof above. That design gives you the most counter space. The biggest problem with home kitchens is that there's no cutting board space. There isn't enough counter space to do your prep and then do your sautéing. To prep a good meal, you need space to have your *mise en place* all spread out.

Mise En Place

Mise en place is the organized set up professional chefs use to arrange their ingredients prior to cooking. Ingredients are washed, chopped and placed in individual bowls. This system speeds up the cooking process as you don't have to stop constantly to assemble the items needed for a recipe.

Double Sink

A good large-sized double sink also helps. Be sure to include a spray nozzle on the faucets. I know it seems like a small thing but it really helps. Cooks can clean as they go and they can also dump their hot pasta for draining in the second sink.

Walk-In Pantry

It's much better to have a walk-in pantry rather than a bunch of cupboards. That way, you can see what you have on hand so you're much better organized that way. You can walk into your pantry and grab what you need. You can have all of your spices lined up. Home cooks won't have to bend over or stretch too far into the back of the cupboard to get at their ingredients.



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 **Ashleigh Mattern** Photo: Mirage Hardwood Floors

HARDWOOD VS. LOOKALIKES

What's The Best Option For Your Home?

In the world of flooring, hardwood is king. The look of hardwood is so in demand, linoleum and vinyl manufacturers go to great lengths to mimic the look in their own products.

Whether you're opting for the real deal, or going for a

lookalike, Michelle Rowlett, interior design consultant at Braid Flooring and Window Fashions, encourages homeowners to do their homework.

"When you are selecting, be really honest with yourself with regard to your budget, and pick the best possible product

you can for your budget and your lifestyle," she said. "Keep in mind that it's going to be probably a pretty large chunk of that reno and almost as important as the structure of the home because you are walking on it every day."

For most people, flooring is not something you can tear out in a couple of years when you decide you want something different, so make a good choice at the start. 

HARDWOOD



Photo: Mirage Hardwood Floors

Rowlett says hardwood is her favourite type of flooring because it provides both physical and visual warmth, and has a wow factor that lookalikes can't beat.

"It's considered a higher end product," she said. "And it maintains its value for the home. When you go to sell, even if your home is 10 years old, you can say 'hardwood throughout.' No one's going to say, '10-year-old carpet throughout!' But 'hardwood throughout' still has a perceived and real value to it."

Price

About \$12 per square foot installed.

Durability

Hardwood does get scratched over time, and doesn't react well to water. But real hardwood can be refinished, whereas laminate and vinyl cannot. Refinishing isn't necessarily cheaper than replacing the floor, but it is easier because you don't have to take out the whole floor.

Care

Rowlett says hardwood care is relatively minimal, especially if the floor has been sealed. You do have to maintain certain humidity levels in your home, especially with woods from warmer climates. You should dust the floor regularly, use appropriate floor cleaners, and periodically use a hardwood cleaner. Using a floor steamer is not recommended because the added moisture can damage the wood.

Trends

The biggest trend in hardwood right now is a rustic, hand-scraped look with knotholes and scratches. Rowlett says this style is a response to the super shiny look that's been popular for years. Other trends include oak in a darker stain than the golden oak that was popular in the '80s, and oiled floors with a matte finish.

LAMINATE



Photo: Armstrong

Hardwood is not for everyone, and often budget is a barrier. That's where alternatives like laminate step in. Some higher-end laminates are as expensive as hardwood, but for the most part, it's a cheaper option. Laminates can look just like hardwood, but Rowlett says the sound of the floor can give it away; they tend to sound a little bit hollow compared to hardwood.

Price

About \$8 per square foot installed.

Durability

Laminate is a good choice for a part-time home like a cabin, because humidity is not a concern, and it can withstand lower temperatures. Laminate is also a better option if you have animals because the finishes tend to be tougher than on hardwood. It will scratch; it's just harder to do.

Care

The biggest difference between laminate and hardwood is that laminate reacts more poorly to water. "If your dishwasher were to leak, laminate is going to swell up like a pufferfish," said Rowlett. For this reason, you wouldn't want to put laminate in the bathroom, or use a floor steamer. To clean laminate, dampen a microfiber mop or duster with warm water, then spray the mop head three times with a laminate floor cleaner. If you spray too much cleaner onto a dry mop, you'll end up with streaks and residue.

Trends

The biggest competitor to laminate is real hardwood, so manufacturers take great pains to make their products look as realistic as possible. Rowlett says early laminate lookalikes were an unrealistic high gloss, while the new trend is to include grains, knots, and other imperfections.

VINYL



Photo: Armstrong

Both vinyl and laminate do a good job at copying the visual appearance of hardwood, but vinyl does such a good job that Rowlett says it has fooled people at trade shows. Because luxury vinyl planking is adhered right to the concrete or floor base, the sound of the floor is more solid. Like hardwood, it can be installed over plywood, and because it's pliable and doesn't shift the way hardwood does, it's easier to install on concrete, and it's a better option for older homes where the floor may not be completely level.

Price

About \$7 per square foot installed.

Durability

Some vinyl products are water resistant, so this is one way vinyl beats out both real hardwood and laminate. Vinyl floors can also be very durable regarding scratches, but Rowlett points out that if you have a large dog with big nails, the only floor that won't get wear and tear is concrete.

Care

Care for vinyl is pretty minimal. Unlike laminate or hardwood, you can use a mop on vinyl or a steam cleaner, though you can also use the same specialty care products as you would for laminate or hardwood. Humidity levels also don't need to be kept in check for materials like vinyl.

Trends

Just like laminate, vinyl manufacturers are working hard to create hardwood lookalikes that are incredibly realistic. The trends that apply to hardwood or laminate also apply to vinyl. When researching vinyl, you'll surely stumble across the term "luxury vinyl planks." This is the style of vinyl flooring that is cut into planks, and installed similarly to a hardwood, where they're laid down piece by piece.

CERAMIC TILE



Photo: Ames Tile & Stone Ltd.

Christian Braid, Vice President at Braid Flooring, said that when he first saw samples of ceramic tile hardwood lookalikes, he was skeptical, but the demand was real enough to change his mind. It's adhered to the sub-floor, so it sounds solid, unlike laminate, and it's extremely durable. But it's not the best choice if you're looking for a cheaper option: the price of ceramic tile is comparable to hardwood.

Price

About \$12 per square foot installed.

Durability

The durability of tile basically can't be beat. Braid says you don't have to worry about humidity in the house, and it's a great choice if you have kids and dogs because it's hard to scratch or dent. "It's

virtually indestructible," said Braid. "It's meant to last a lifetime; you can beat it up pretty badly."

Care

Because tile is so durable, the directions for cleaning it are easy: sweep or vacuum regularly, and mop with clean water. If there's a bigger mess to deal with, use a mild detergent.

Trends

Ceramic tile hardwood lookalikes are available in just about every style you can imagine, including a visually stunning rustic tile that looks like "old weathered board, almost off the side of a barn," said Braid. "The technology that's gone into this tile is incredible. The visual on this tile is stunning, and you can get all sorts of different looks." (H)

Ashleigh Mattern



LILLIAN LANE



Appl Photo

SMALL SPACES MADE PRACTICAL

The Condo.

Effective space utilization is a common topic amongst many homeowners. Storing and accessing the many possessions we accumulate in our modern day society, in a visually appealing way, is a challenge.

Condo living in particular puts this

space practicality to the test. We brought in decorator and professional organizer Barbara Shawcross from Realistic Redesign to bring some ideas to the table to address some problem areas for a condo owner in downtown Saskatoon.



AFTER

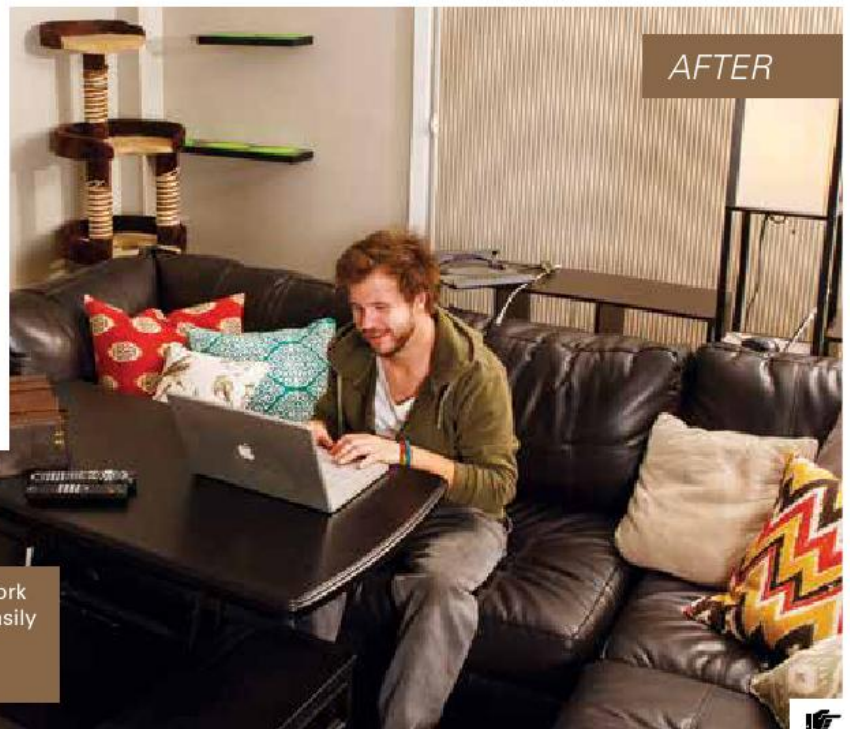


BEFORE

THE PROBLEM: Matthew Stadnyk (below) needed to better utilize the main living space of his one bedroom condo unit. His main issues revolved around storage, creating a work/live space, and a place for his cat Henry to be included in a non obtrusive way.



BEFORE



AFTER

This soft lift coffee table transforms into an active work space, perfect for computer and paper work. Then easily glides back to coffee table height. Coffee table was purchased at Uncle Ed's Furniture.

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Photo Courtesy: North 52 Cabinets, as seen in a Pawluk built home

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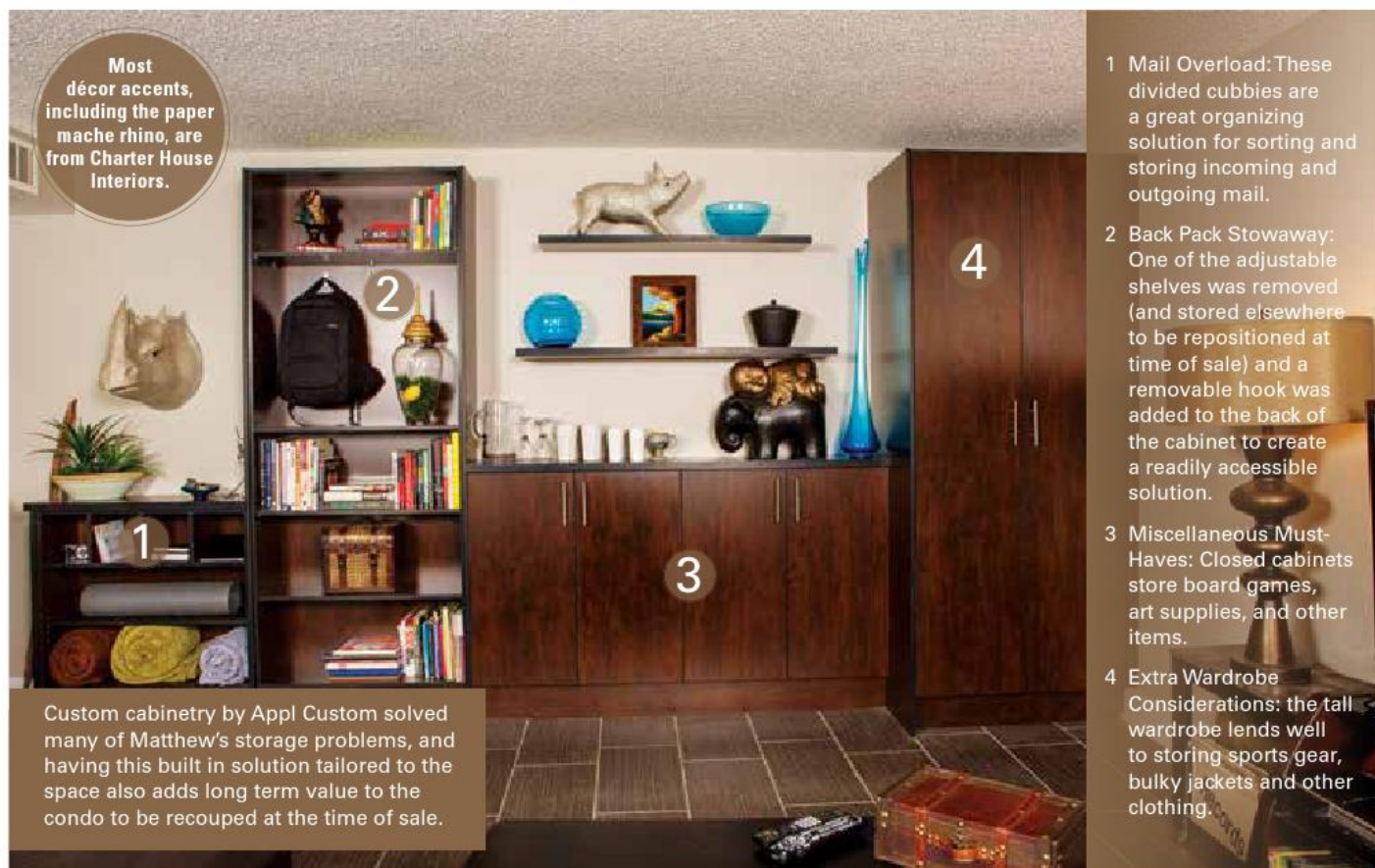
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Most décor accents, including the paper mache rhino, are from Charter House Interiors.

Custom cabinetry by Appl Custom solved many of Matthew's storage problems, and having this built in solution tailored to the space also adds long term value to the condo to be recouped at the time of sale.

- 1 Mail Overload: These divided cubbies are a great organizing solution for sorting and storing incoming and outgoing mail.
- 2 Back Pack Stowaway: One of the adjustable shelves was removed (and stored elsewhere to be repositioned at time of sale) and a removable hook was added to the back of the cabinet to create a readily accessible solution.
- 3 Miscellaneous Must-Haves: Closed cabinets store board games, art supplies, and other items.
- 4 Extra Wardrobe Considerations: the tall wardrobe lends well to storing sports gear, bulky jackets and other clothing.



5) Supplemental Seating: Incorporating this chaise sectional allows for more visitors to sit comfortably without the extra arm boxing you in.

6) Cat Conundrum: "Cats are wired to jump, so give them a space to do so that keeps them away from your countertops and other off limits areas," says Barbara from Realistic Redesign. Staggered custom shelves from Appl Custom work perfectly for this use, and are easily repurposed to decorative shelves for future owners.



Removable grips were added to give the kitty traction, and a cat bed was added to the top perch for comfort. Now Henry has a place to call his own.





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SNOW SLIDES AND FORTS

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Snow Slide Means Best Daycare Fun Ever!

Christina "Gramma" Belhumeur has been running a licensed home daycare for many years. When "Poppa Ray" retired from CN a few

years back, he started helping out and "there's always something going on at the Belhumeur household!" In 2012, the backyard became a skating rink (Saskatoon HOME, Winter 2012). Last year, with

record snowfall, Poppa Ray decided to turn the front and back yards into a couple of spectacular snow slides.

Ray, heeding his wife's cautions (she had visions of kids hurtling out into the street),

built both slides in the luge tradition with high sides so kids would stay put as they swooshed to the bottom. He built ladders of 2X4s iced into the slide walls "so even the little kids could climb without any



Tim Stone and Teddy Marfleet perch at the entrance of their fort built to hold 12 adults comfortably. Pals Rob Lundquist and Stephan Chisholm (not present) are typically a large part of these winter builds.

help." At the kids' insistence, he sailed down himself on a few occasions.

"We had three-year olds on the slides by themselves," says Ray. "We were always there to keep an eye out, but being able to play on your own is a real person-builder, a confidence-builder. The school-aged kids went out in the front to slide in the morning before the school bus came." He grins at the suggestion that he could have built the slide to shoot kids straight in through the school bus door. "Now you're thinking like me! Don't let my wife hear that!"

Blessed with a record snowfall last year, Ray decided the slides were the way to keep the kids entertained and make use of excess snow. "She was quite a process," says Ray. Each slide was built by the shovelful. It was a daily job to ensure the structures were

safe. Soon strangers started stopping to ask if their children could use the slide "just once or twice?"

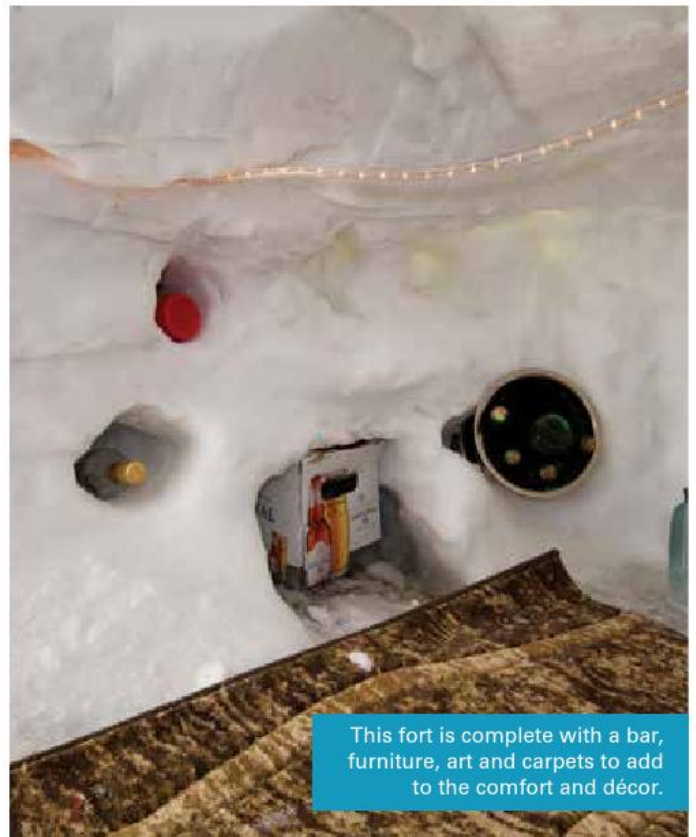
Ray mixed up some "magic paint" in spray bottles and the children helped decorate. "The kids loved it! We sprayed on the colours and the kids did the polka dots."

This winter's dream project is an ice castle. Daycare parents, friends and neighbours have been saving 2 litre milk jugs since the fall. Ray filled them with coloured water, froze them in the garage and will construct the castle as weather permits.

"The best part is being out there during the winter with the kids," says Ray. "We all have a good time."

The Art of The Fort

While some cringe, Tim Stone is happy to hear that snow is forecast and it's -20. 🧤



This fort is complete with a bar, furniture, art and carpets to add to the comfort and décor.

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"Hating February won't make it any better," he says. "It'll just make winter seem longer." The trick, he insists, is figuring out how to get out in it and enjoy it. One way to do that is to act like a kid again and, really, what's better than a snow fort?

Most people have heard of quinzees and igloos as means of temporary or long-term winter survival. Unlike an igloo, which is made of cut blocks of hard snow, the 'pile it on' idea works well on the prairies. Snow is piled up and allowed to—your new word for the day—*sinter*. The snow settles and ice crystals bond with each other and harden for greater structural integrity.

Construction

Tim confesses that he hadn't heard of a quinzee before; his initial idea involved pretty simple physics. Pile up snow. Hollow it out. Have a beer.

"Then you hope for more snowfall." Tim's crew took five days of shoveling and hollowing their snow pile out to create a comfortable, livable and party-able space inside.

"We kept eyeing up the huge piles of snow in parking lots at Preston Crossing or CUC," he laughs. "You could build condominium forts in those! But this was all about a group of friends coming together to enjoy winter. Anyway, I don't think they allow you to drink in those parking lots." Part of the design plan was to carve holes in the quinzee's thick walls to serve as built-in chillers for beer and vodka; ice wine for the more sophisticated.

Once the interior of Tim's was finished, area rugs went down and rope lighting was snaked through the walls. Furniture needs to be placed first, then the snow piled on,

and then is uncovered in the hollowing out stage.

"We have a really ugly piece of art on the wall that came from a garage sale years ago," Tim laughs. "That came about in our second year. We thought it would really juj up the place!" Entrances and exits were built as slides "so gravity helps you get in and out" and big chunks of snow were slid into place to block wind. Because of the insulating value of the snow and body heat, the interior of a quinzee can be quite comfortable. Some builders, however, get quite elaborate with modern conveniences.

"Some people put a space heater inside, but that's not what it's about for us," Tim explains. "We have a house that's heated. This is about building a fort."

Tim does appreciate having one household appliance: the baby monitor. The adults can have a quinzee party complete with drinks, snacks and board games, and still keep an ear out for the kids inside the house. And because the snow muffles sound, there wasn't the worry about annoying neighbours with outdoor party noise. Last year's quinzee could hold 20 people, 12 comfortably.

Safety

The biggest concerns are cave-ins and a lack of proper ventilation, both of which can put a serious damper on winter fun. Leaving snow long enough to sinter (weld together) properly is crucial, typically 3-8 hours will do it. Measuring sticks can be poked into the mound from the outside to measure wall thickness to ensure the inside isn't hollowed out too much creating fragile walls. At least two large ventilation holes will allow fresh air in and carbon

dioxide out. As Walter White knows, a healthy respect for chemistry is always useful.

Free Fun

For 'kids' who have grown up, married and had children, the quinzee "is a way to hold on to the fun that winter always used to be." No matter what your age, there's something magical about building a fort, whether it's with blankets, in a tree or made of snow. And from October to March, there's a lot of free building material outside for the taking. 

Karin Melberg Schwier



Snow buddies Teddy Marfleet and Tim Stone relax inside their fort. "I never heard of a quinzee before," Tim admits. "But a group of us have always made snowforts. Now that we're all grown up, it's a great excuse to get together and have some fun like we used to."

Photo: Sevenstar Studio

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The see-through temperature controlled wine cellar is indeed the highlight here. The wet bar lends itself to intimate wine tastings, and the flat screen TV and comfortable seating still caters to the sports crowd, creating a diverse space. Design by Lexis Homes.



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

Photo: Lexis Homes

HOME BARS

A Sophisticated Entertainment Hub

The words 'home bar' may send your mind swirling back to your teenage years when the weekend raison d'être was to pick the lock on your parents' rumpus room liquor cabinet. Oh, to be held in high esteem by your junior high friends if you could make good on the promise of a bottle of lemon gin. Of course, if you ever were successful, painstaking measures were necessary to refill the bottle to the right level. Didn't we ever think our parents would notice increasingly watered down Gilbey's London Dry or Johnnie Walker scotch? Today, we're a little more sophisticated about how we entertain our guests.

From subtle to funky to opulent, today's home bar does more than scream "Get booze here!" In fact, it can become a unique entertainment mecca.

What Kind of Investment?

Plumbers and electricians have noticed a trend toward bigger home bars with more appliances, almost like small kitchens. Dishwashers are common, so are wine fridges in addition to a normal fridge, microwave, and small walk-in pantries, if there's room. One plumber recalls a design with kegs in a separate room like a full-on pub.

Determine budget, size and complexity of your project.

There are many things to think about. Be honest with yourself. Don't spend a small fortune on sinks, taps and tools on a space that will attract more dust than drinking buddies.

Setting the Mood

Determining the atmosphere you want to create will guide what and how you choose to serve, and what kind of bar layout you want to build. Is it a pirate-themed bar? Well, then it might be arrrr..ropriate (sorry) to serve rum drinks in pirate ship-shaped glasses. A Belgian beer bar? Then load up on the proprietary glassware. Just a kitschy hodgepodge of stuff you've collected over the years

that slightly embarrasses your spouse? I know some people.

Depending on the look you're after, affordable strip or rope LED lighting works well in and under cabinets, for liquor shelf and edge lighting. Pendant lighting over the bar is popular for a nice look without blocking the view. Instead of shelving behind the bar, a TV (or more than one) is becoming popular if space allows.

What's In It For You?

Check out the following and decide if any are 'must haves' or 'a guy can dream' elements for your home bar.

Bar Basics

- Bar and countertop to serve and rest drinks on.
- Shelving, usually behind the bartender to display bottles, glassware.
- "Wells" for bottom shelf liquor, mixers, juices.
- Ice coolers or buckets.
- Refrigeration for bottles/kegs. Most can be disguised directly under the bar. With money and motivation, separate keg coolers with long or short draw systems can push beer to the tap faucets at the bar.
- Cool bar towels and coasters.
- Coat hangers underneath bar on guest side.
- Comfortable seating allows for guests to mingle (e.g. stools with no backs.)
- Historic factoid: In ye olden days, a drain under the barstools ensured that gentlemen didn't have to leave their seats to relieve themselves. I don't suggest you take it that far. 



If space and budget permit, the bar itself can be an exquisite and stylistic centrepiece. A side seating area means those not interested in games on the TV behind the bar can still socialize comfortably in the space. Bar built by Redl Kitchens.

Photo: Redl Kitchens



The warmth of the rustic maple wood, classic style of the bracketed bar supports, and friendly colour combination of this bar creates a comfortable space to enjoy. Bar designed and built by Superior Cabinets.

Photo: Stewart Kasdorf

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- Long handled spoon
- Muddler
- Fruit tray (for limes, lemons)
- Strainer
- Wine key (wine bottle opener)
- Church key (bottle opener)

Draft and Cleaning Systems

- Multiple taps in order to serve different draft beers at the same time.
- Cask engine.
- Co2 tanks and/or Nitro/Co2 blenders.
- Beer glass rinsers installed in drain.
- 3 sinks for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing (or proper bar dishwasher).

Glassware

- Glassware for different styles of beer (pilsner, English pint, goblet, tulip, weizen).
- Proprietary (branded) glassware makes for cool conversation pieces.
- Martini glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, rocks glass, highball, shot glass, red/white wine glasses.
- An interesting display case; one beer aficionado I know has taken over his wife's handcrafted antique china cabinet. She's okay with it.

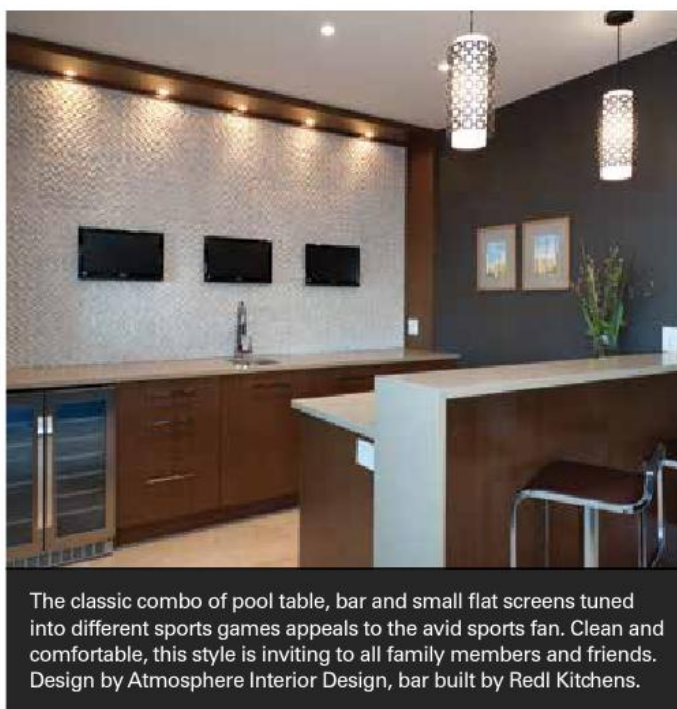
The Good Extras

- Fresh ingredients (fresh squeezed and high quality).
- Ice (some bars chisel blocks of ice into rough cubes by hand simply for the look).
- A variety of whiskey (Bourbon, Scotch, and Rye), vodka, gin, rum, brandy, and liqueurs.
- High shelves to display the higher-end bottles (Warning: this may seem pretentious or interesting, depending on your audience).
- Pop or juice for the kids.



This chalet style bar is host of many gatherings and good conversations in the Slywka home.

Photo: Lillian Lane



The classic combo of pool table, bar and small flat screens tuned into different sports games appeals to the avid sports fan. Clean and comfortable, this style is inviting to all family members and friends. Design by Atmosphere Interior Design, bar built by Redl Kitchens.

Photo: D&M Images

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- Bar snacks. Avoid them at public bars; so many hands, so many places they've been. But a home set up should be relatively safe. Just make sure they're fresh.
- Hand sanitizer.

Storage

Temperature and humidity controlled cellars will properly cellar wine, spirits, and even some beers. Some beers can be kept at different serving temperatures depending on specific beer style or brewer recommendation. Basements or closets – any place with a relatively consistent cooler temperature – will suffice for those on a small budget.

Security

In defense of an exploring toddler, your kid on a dare (remember junior high?) or someone who comes in to feed the dog while you're on holiday, make sure you secure your alcohol. Tap locks can be installed on your draft systems and fridges; put bottles in locked cabinets. For the home bar geek who wants a true bar aesthetic, hiring a big tattooed guy called Tiny who sits on a stool and checks ID's might be a nice touch. 

Karin Melberg Schwier

Special thanks to Bryan at Burco Electric (Saskatoon) and Koby at Imperio Plumbing (Saskatoon), and Ben at The Crow Bar and Kitchen (California) for their expertise.



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JULIE BARNES

THE BUYER/BUILDER BALANCE

Working To Ensure Better Homes, Better Business

In our fall issue, we sat down with Mayor Don Atchison and Arbutus Properties to learn what the City's involvement in residential development means for local home builders and for city planning. If you missed it view the digital back issue at www.saskatoon-home.ca.

For this issue, we met with the Saskatoon & Region Home

Builders' Association to learn about the effects of having a large number of home builders operating in the city – and what it means for home buyers.

Our city-led development opens the doors for small-scale and start-up home builders. It helps level the playing field and offers opportunities that simply don't exist in

other Canadian cities. But with these opportunities also come challenges for the home building industry, and consequently, home buyers themselves. With 190 eligible home builders registered with the City's Land Branch, how is a home buyer to decide on the right company to build with or buy from?

Growing Pains

"We started to see big challenges, or opportunities, depending on how you look at it, back in 2008 when things really started to peak in Saskatoon and we started to see this huge growth," says Karen Kobussen, Director of Member Relations with the Saskatoon & Region 



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our single-family homes. Are consumers protected? Are these builders doing it right and working at a high level of quality and service that we strive for at the Home Builders' Association?"

Making Strides

As the voice of the residential construction industry, the Association works hard to foster a healthy business environment for its members – and enhance consumer confidence.

In early 2013, as a result of a lot of hard work and collaboration with the City, new criteria was established for builders looking to become eligible contractors with the Land Branch, the designation that allows builders to participate in lot draws.

"They now have to present a complete business plan. They have to have third party warranty on the homes they build, they must submit to a credit check and provide industry references in addition to other criteria already in place," says Thomarat.

Consumers need to know that not all builders are created equal and these tougher regulations are a step in the right direction.

"Before they even buy a lot they have to prove their ability and capability to build houses," says Thomarat. "We're not trying to stifle business. We encourage business. We just want to make sure that home building is done to the best ability and with the best product on the market for the consumer." 

Julie Barnes

LOT DRAWS EXPLAINED

The City of Saskatoon's Land Branch is responsible for managing residential lot draws in publically developed areas of the city.

Despite the name, lot draws are not completely random. Currently, 90 per cent of the lots are set aside for eligible contractors and 10 per cent for individuals.

Who Can Enter?

In order for a builder to have their name added to the list of eligible contractors, there are several criteria they have to meet. New builders go through a probationary period, and if certain criteria have been met, they can become eligible contractors.

Individuals who want to buy a lot must be using it to build their own principal residence and cannot have purchased a lot directly from the City in the last three years.

When is The Next One?

Information about upcoming lot draws can be found on the Land Branch's website. Detailed maps there show the location and price of each lot available at the lot draw.

How Does it Work?

During the lot draw, a large map – just like the one on the Land Branch website – is pinned up.

The first nine choices go to the builders. This is not a random draw, but rather order is determined based on the builder's previous five-year purchase history. Those who have purchased the most, get first pick. After these nine builders mark their choices on the map, the first individual's name is randomly drawn – usually by Mayor Don Atchison.

After that individual makes their pick, the following nine selections go to the eligible contractors/builders. After that, another individual is picked at random, and this cycle continues until no lots remain.

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CRAIG SILLIPHANT



HEATHER FRITZ

The aroma of gourmet cuisine is in the air, the taste of wine on the tongue, and the sound of music and good conversation fills the room. There are few better ways of bonding and having fun than hosting your own dinner party, so for this issue's foodie column, we at Saskatoon HOME decided to do just that. Publishers and owners Amanda and Rob Soulodre opened up their beautiful home to me, HOME writers Ashleigh Mattern and Karin Melberg Schwier, and photographer Heather Fritz, so that we could unpack the idea of how to entertain the right way.

However, rather than have Amanda and Rob slave over a hot stove, we realized that Saskatoon has grown enough for us to take advantage of a trend more common in bigger cities – hiring a private chef to cater the dinner. Not only can you get some amazing gourmet food, but as host, you can spend your time taking care of your guests. And the best part – minimal clean up afterwards!

We brought in one of the city's preeminent experts

on fine dining and food, a British transplant, Chef Simon Reynolds of Simon's Fine Foods (www.simonsfinefoods.com). Chef Simon has been cooking for 25 years, having owned restaurants like Simon's



Chef Simon intense in concentration, transfixed on the detailed perfection of the meal he serves.

British Flavours, and now focusing on a more hands-on approach to feeding people. At Simon's Fine Foods, he gives cooking classes to everyone from singles and couples to

corporate teams, as well as doing private parties like ours. Simon's also has a storefront on Broadway (in The Avalon Shopping Centre), where you can buy made from scratch soups, entrees, and more.

Now, you might be saying to yourself, 'A chef in your home - oh, that's just something that posh rich people do. Isn't it too fancy? What would I even have to do?'

Don't worry – that is what this article is about and I'll explain the whole thing.

What To Expect

"It's the same as calling a plumber or electrician," he explains. "It's just another service."

Chef Simon showed up an hour or so before the guests so he could carry in his caddies of dishes, cooking containers, and food to begin prepping his dishes, bringing everything he needs to organize and serve the meal with him. I came early so I could watch him work, and the guests started to trickle in shortly after. This is where one of the benefits of having a chef comes in – we sat down for a glass of wine in the living

room, and Amanda and Rob were free to entertain their guests while we waited for the first course. This was great – I've hosted dinner parties where I did the cooking, and didn't get to spend time with my guests until the meal was well underway.

The options for the menu are virtually endless, and of course, the price can fluctuate depending on what you're asking for. One great way to go about it is to choose the meat for the main course and the chef will build the rest of the meal around it. Cost-wise, Chef Simon estimates that it's about \$60.00 to \$70.00 per person which includes a three course meal (appetizer, main and dessert). As well, a server can be arranged if desired, for about \$15.00 an hour plus a 15% gratuity.

As for making your guest list, Simon can serve a range of 4 – 12 guests in your home. The timeline of the evening had Chef Simon arrive at 5pm, appetizers began at 6pm and dessert concluded at around 7:15pm.



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Hurricane centrepiece and stunning napkin rings from Gallery 17.



Starting right: Craig Silliphant (writer), Amanda Soulodre & Rob Soulodre (owners), Chef Simon Reynolds, Ashleigh Mattern (writer) and Karin Melberg Schwier (writer) enjoy a lovely evening and delicious cuisine at the Soulodres home. Also in attendance is Heather Fritz (photographer) behind the lens. Interested in learning a bit more background about the Saskatoon HOME team? Visit www.saskatoon-home.ca/extras.

The Menu

Chef Simon served each guest and gave a full explanation of the course at hand, adding to the elegance of the evening, and our anticipation of the dish.

We started with a delectable appetizer: seared smoky scallops with crispy bacon, a butternut squash puree, summer tomato chutney, and an herb oil and capers garnish. The tone was set, the wine was flowing, and so was the conversation.

For the main course, we dove into duck two ways: a confit duck leg and sous vide duck breast with an orange and tarragon jus. Sharing the plate with the duck was a honey roast local beet, grilled baby carrots, and parsley mashed potato. It was a rich course, and the confit duck leg was a definite favourite around the table.

Rounding the bend towards dessert, a deconstructed pumpkin cheesecake wowed us, as well as the most stellar sticky toffee pudding you've ever sampled, with a lush

caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream on top. It was like the best dream you ever had, on a plate, with fluffy clouds of ice cream and all.

Everything But Glasses and Décor

In addition to relaxing with your guests, hiring the chef comes with other perks for the host. Chef Simon brings almost everything with him, like the plates and silverware, and takes it away when he leaves. You supply the glassware and the decorations and anything else you need to customize your party. At the end of the evening Amanda happily admitted that all she had to do was put the glasses in the dishwasher, and tossed the napkins in the wash.

In terms of hiring a chef, it's a smart idea to book ahead. The trend is growing, and there are a limited number of chefs in Saskatoon like Chef Simon that provide this service (their busy season is from around October to March). As with any service, I also recommend that it's wise to set your expectations early

on. Ask the chef any questions or make him or her aware of any special requirements that will ensure you're on the same page. Make sure you find

someone with a reputation for under promising and over delivering.

What final advice does Chef Simon have when hiring a chef for your dinner party?
"Rely on good word of mouth."

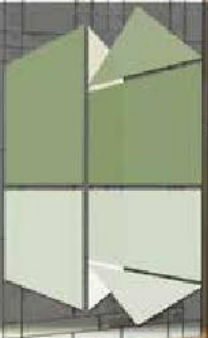
At the end of the evening, we were all smiling and well fed; some people even tried foods they'd never tasted before. It was a wonderful night, with marvelous cooking, fantastic wine, and some new friends made. All in all, exactly what you want to experience in any memorable dinner party. 

Craig Silliphant

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HOMEtown Reflections

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Hallmark of a Modern Prairie City

By the end of 1909, the city had 10 miles of sanitary sewers and almost 11 miles of water mains. A year later, those numbers had nearly doubled. The burning question, of course, was what to do with all of the stuff coming out the other end?



Waiting in line in 1934.



JEFF O'BRIEN

Photo: PH91-179-85 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

Nothing says "modern living" faster than the humble flush toilet. Of all the fancy gadgets and electronic gew-gaws we cram into our houses, none is so simple, so ubiquitous or so important to our health and comfort.

Ironically, this vital piece of equipment is one we take almost completely for granted. Press the magic handle and down it all goes, out of sight and out of mind.

Like those other miraculous devices that allow modern cities to function – the shiny knob that you turn to get clean, drinkable water, or the little switches that flood our rooms with light and send hot air pouring out of the register – the humble porcelain throne cannot work without a massively complex system of pipes and conduits, pumps, wires and machinery, buried beneath the streets or hiding behind the

walls of civic buildings, that all have to function exactly right all the time for our modern conveniences to work. We're talking infrastructure: the whole enchilada of public utilities that make cities safe and livable, and which we tend to notice only when they fail.

Taking Care of Business in the Early Days

Sewers don't normally arouse a lot of excitement, for the most part being big pipes set in the ground and full of... well, you know. This isn't always the case. In Paris, the sewers are so cool that visitors actually pay to go down the tunnels that lead to the pipes. Saskatoon's sewers are not quite so admired, alas, and it doesn't seem likely we'll be running tours through them any time soon. But life as we know it could not exist without them.

In 1905, Saskatoon was still

mostly just a sleepy little farming town perched on the edge of nowhere. But it was starting to wake up. Railways were being built across the newly anointed province of Saskatchewan; immigrants from all over were starting to pour in and all manner of opportunity was available to those able to take advantage of it. If it was true, as Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier said, "The 20th century belonged to Canada," then Saskatoon was going to do its best to get its share. But to do that, we needed to be a modern city, and modern cities need modern amenities.

It was with an eye to both the present and the future, then, that in 1906, the city hired a Toronto engineer named Willis Chipman to design and build its first public utilities.

Prior to that, there simply hadn't been enough people here – or enough money – to warrant

anything more complicated in the way of sanitary engineering than a guy with a shovel. In those days, outbreaks of typhoid, dysentery and infantile diarrhea were common in Saskatoon. It didn't help that manure and other refuse was frequently dumped in the ravines leading to the river upstream of town, or that wells here were usually served by a bucket, rather than a pump. It only took one dirty bucket to infect a well, and in one example, a typhoid epidemic in Caswell Hill was traced to a milk seller who was watering down his milk from a dirty well in that neighbourhood.

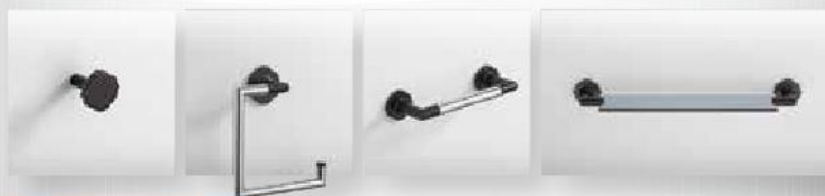
The Need for Modern Amenities

Partly it was a problem of lack of regulation, and it is no coincidence that the city's first public health officer was hired at this time and the first health bylaw passed the following

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Lowering pipe for the interceptor sewer, ca. 1912.

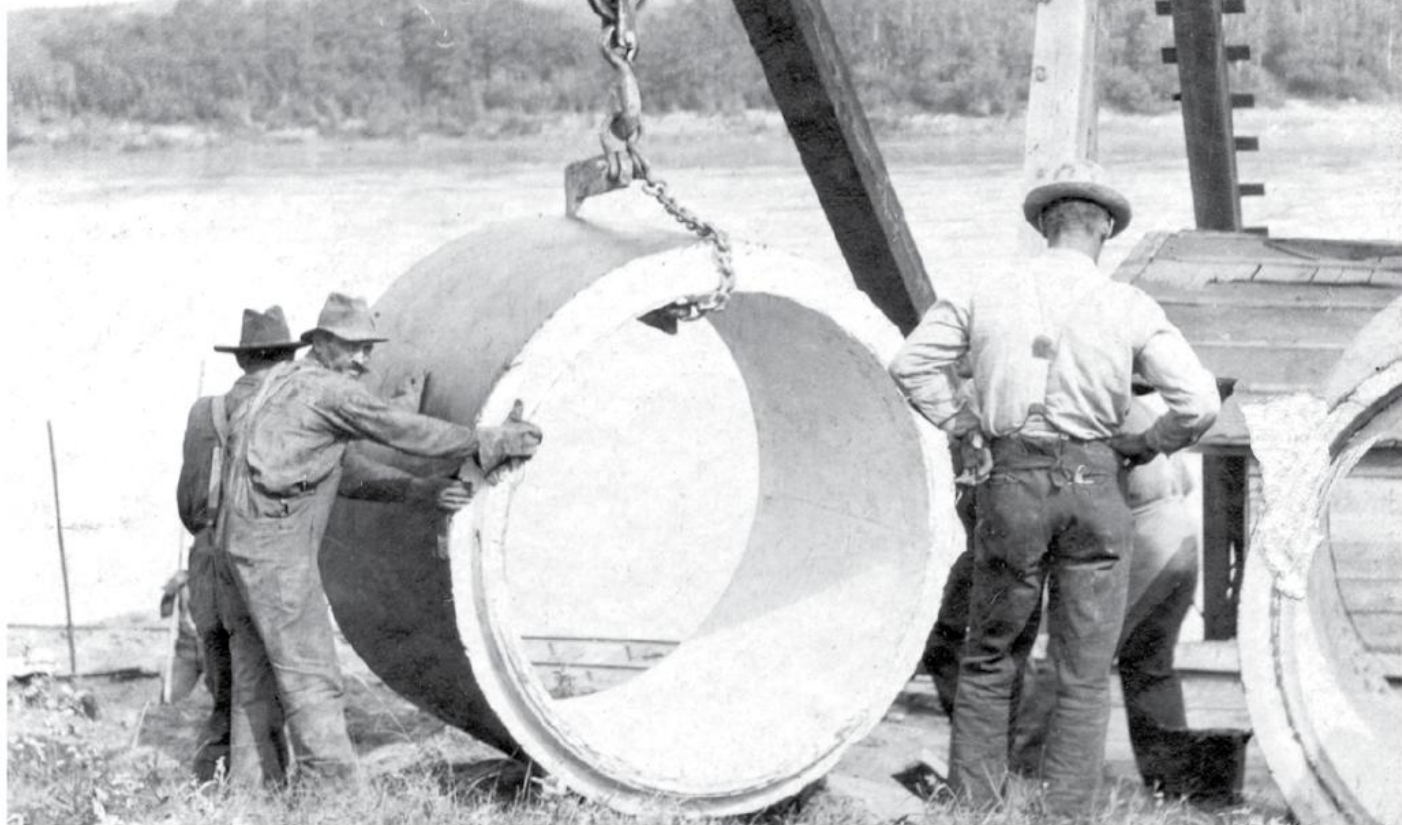


Photo: S-COS-68-008 courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archive

year, which included provisions for closing contaminated wells. But mostly, Saskatoon needed a clean, secure water supply, and a safe means of getting rid of the inevitable end products.

Enter Willis Chipman, who was tasked with designing and installing a water and sewer system and building an electrical generating station and a pumping station for the water works (his design called for the two to be combined into a single building). With a price tag of \$320,000, it was a huge project which would in one fell swoop turn Saskatoon into the very model of a modern city. Work got underway promptly. By

the spring of 1907, the building's walls were up, machinery delivered, and a good-sized chunk of downtown dug up for the installation of the mains.

But 1907 was a bad year for the global economy, and as had happened before and would happen again, Saskatoon suffered. In April, the city received word that the bank had cut off its credit. With no money to pay the men and the suppliers, work would have to stop. This was disastrous news. The crisis was averted when Mayor James R. Wilson arranged a loan on his personal credit. That original building is the core of the present-day municipal water



Beginning in the 1920s, Saskatoon's Public Health officials waged a decades-long battle against primitive and unsanitary privies in the city.

Photo: D500-III-866 courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archive

treatment plant at Avenue H and 11th Street.

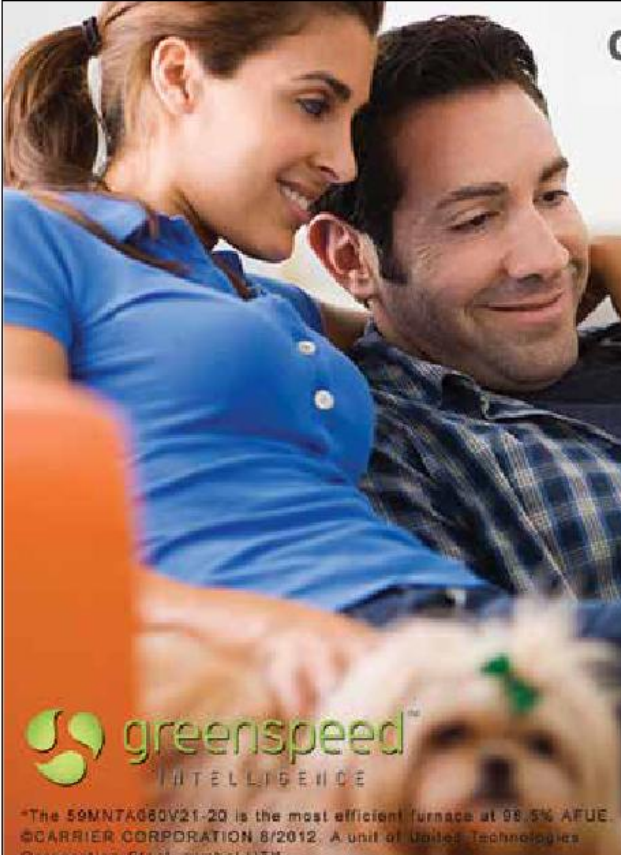
By the end of 1909, the city had 10 miles of sanitary sewers and almost 11 miles of water mains. A year later, those numbers had nearly doubled. The burning question, of course, was what to do with all of the stuff coming out the other end. The answer was to pour it straight into the conveniently located South Saskatchewan River. Chipman had been of the opinion that simple dilution with river water would quickly render the city's sewage harmless. His original layout included several outfall sewers draining into the river in different spots where it passed through the city.

Writing in 1910, the city engineer disagreed, stating that while organic material might be oxidized by mixing with river water, "disease-producing germs are not so easily



Sewer and water main construction in Nutana in the 1920s.

Photo: 2006-048 courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archive



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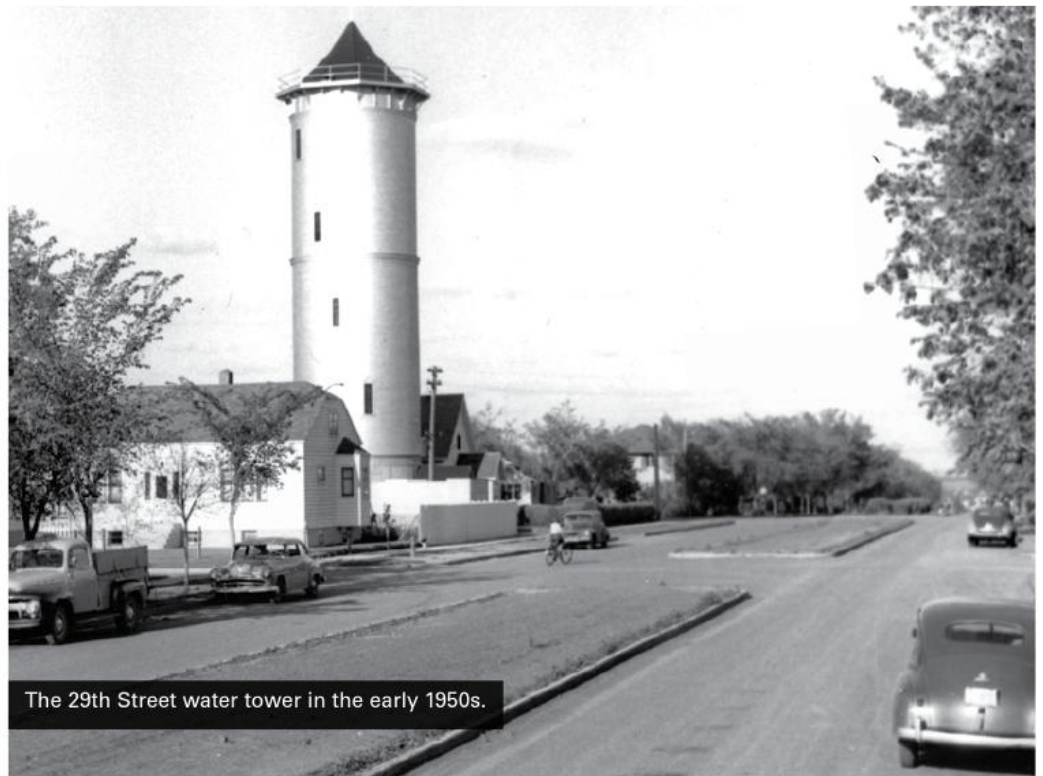
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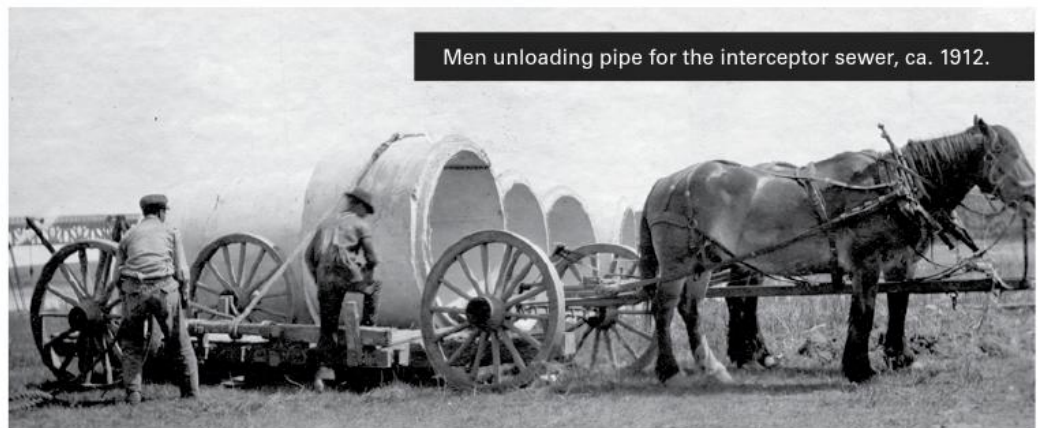
destroyed." Crews working on the CPR bridge in 1908 discovered this the hard way after catching typhoid from drinking river water downstream of the city's outfalls. The proposed solution was to build an "interceptor sewer" along the riverbank, connecting to all the other lines and taking their combined load to a treatment plant downstream of the city. This interceptor was completed in 1913. For financial reasons, however, the treatment plant wasn't built, and the interceptor was not actually connected into the system for more than 30 years.

Saskatoon continued to pour its raw sewage straight into the river. Not surprisingly, the folks living downstream were less than happy. A long-running legal battle ensued between the city and the RM of Cory (now Corman Park). But these were years of war and depression, and Saskatoon simply had no money to fix the problem. Even when a plant was finally built in 1948, it simply broke up the more unsightly bits before sending it downstream. This plant later exploded (and was rebuilt) in 1951, when an open valve at the refinery on 11th Street West sent oil into the sewer system. 🖱️



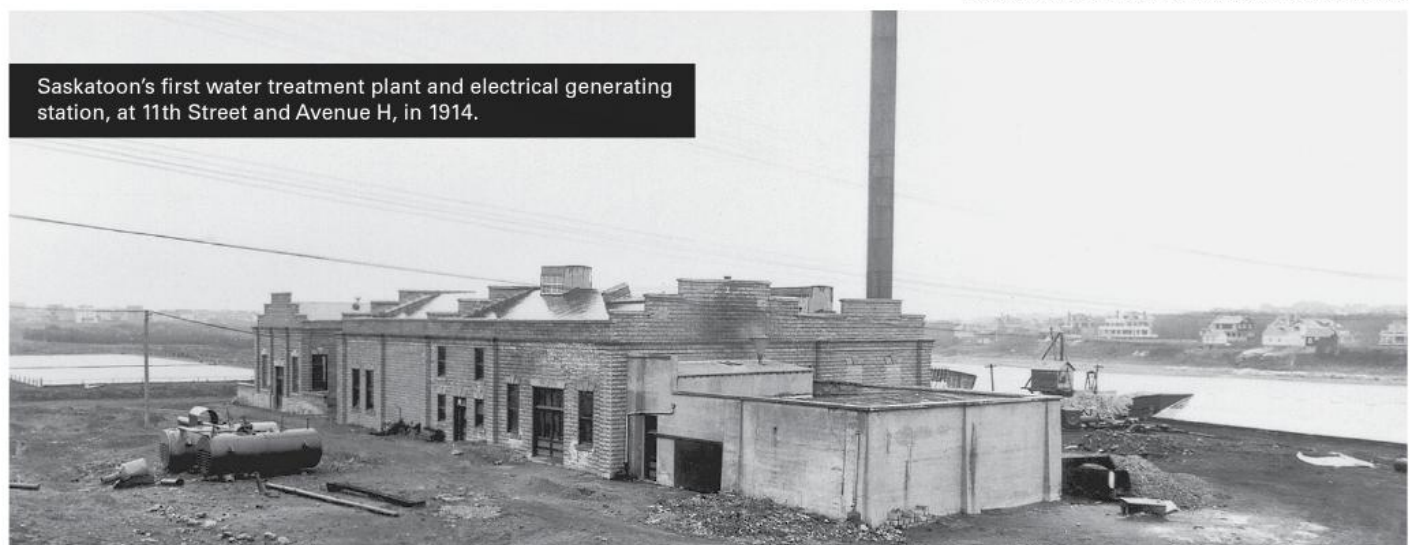
The 29th Street water tower in the early 1950s.

Photo: 1008-017-002, City of Saskatoon Archive



Men unloading pipe for the interceptor sewer, ca. 1912.

Photo: S-COS-68-007 courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archive



Saskatoon's first water treatment plant and electrical generating station, at 11th Street and Avenue H, in 1914.

Photo: LH1824 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

Getting a Grip on Effluent

Things had to change. A report in 1962 noted that bits of toilet paper, grease, fat particles and "other matter, obviously of sewage origin" could be found floating in the river as far as 26 kilometres downstream. The shoreline was festooned with such stuff and the coliform bacteria count in the

water was dangerously high. A huge step forward occurred in 1971, when the H. McIvor Weir Pollution Control Plant opened, and upgrades and expansions since then mean now the city's sewage treatment facilities are second to none.

Like many other things we take for granted, Saskatoon's sewer and water infrastructure

originated with the boom years of a century ago, when the city worked furiously to provide the kinds of amenities that people expected. Running water, flush toilets, electric lights and public transit were all critical to making Saskatoon a place people would want to come to establish their businesses and raise their families. In those

early days, Saskatoon was simply one of many similarly sized smaller centres looking to get ahead. That it won the race for pre-eminence was a matter of hard work, vision, good luck and timing. 

Jeff O'Brien

DOING BUSINESS IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Before we had sewers, we had privies, those compact little buildings with the half-moon cutouts in the doors and a copy of the Eaton's catalogue within reach beside the seat. In its most primitive version, this is a "pit closet," so called because the little house was placed over top of a pit. When the pit filled up, you moved the house. Incidentally, pit closets are beloved by archaeologists because people tended to also throw the kinds

of things in them that archaeologists like to dig up. Pit closets were banned in Saskatoon out of fear of contamination of nearby wells, and replaced with "box closets" consisting of a seat over a wooden box which could be emptied by city crews.

Privies were not just a feature of those bad old days before running water. In 1923, we had 3,168 of them in a city of about 5,600 houses. This figure improved

through the 1920s, but by 1945, thanks to the Great Depression and the exigencies of the Second World War, fully one-third of Saskatoon's houses – nearly 3,000 of them – lacked sewer and water connections. And those privies were well used. City crews cleaned an average of 155,000 privies a year from 1933-1943. For the mathematically inclined, this works out to one every three

minutes assuming they didn't work on Sundays.

Health officials considered privies to be dangerous, unsanitary and the source of serious diseases, and fought for decades to eradicate them from Saskatoon. As late as 1963, there were still nearly 400 "unmodern" houses (i.e., with no running water) in Saskatoon.

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Kensington

Modern living, traditional style

Much more than a collection of homes, Saskatoon's newest neighbourhood will be a vibrant community to call home. With an inviting village square, picturesque ponds, parks and space for local shops, this is a neighbourhood where people can live, play and work. Designed to connect seamlessly to nearby communities, this urban village will enrich the lives of its new residents.

Kensington is located in the Northwest within the Blairmore sector. You'll always be able to call Kensington home, even when your housing requirements change. There will be condominiums, townhouses, and single-family homes located on cul-de-sacs and traditional lots with rear lanes. The Village Square will feature mixed-use development with main floor commercial and residential above for those desiring a more lively urban setting.



LOTS of information. JUST ASK!

For details on lot availability in Kensington or other land developments including Evergreen or Rosewood, contact the City of Saskatoon Land Branch at 306-975-3278, visit www.saskatoon.ca/go/kensington or contact your homebuilder.

**NEXT LOT DRAW
EARLY 2014**

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Saskatoon**
Land Branch



LÉO JOSEPH

10 DECORATING HACKS

For The Holiday Season

One of people's favourite parts of the Christmas season is decorating the house. There is just something wonderfully cathartic about coming home from work, walking into your home, and being overwhelmed with images of candy canes, reindeer and Santa. Add a little nutmeg to your egg nog and enjoy these 10 simple ideas to decorate your home during the holiday season.

1. We all have the old fashioned board game of Scrabble. Maybe you are in the 0.001% of those that actually still use yours rather than playing on your phone. But for the majority of us, it is just sitting in the closet collecting dust. Pull it out, put the letter

holders on your fireplace mantle and add a fun Christmas message.

2. Let's be honest. Every year you open up your box of Christmas lights only to discover a tangled web of madness. Now you have an excuse to go to the store and buy some new ones! Grab the bulbs off those old burnt out strings and place them in a flower vase. 📌





3. Christmas is a visual time of year, but don't forget about the other senses. Indulge your sense of smell by taking an ordinary candle, some cinnamon sticks and ribbon to create a high powered assault upon your nose! Or another way to describe it; a nice scented delight.



4. Do you often ask yourself, "Why do I still have a white fridge? Am I the only one without stainless steel appliances left in Saskatoon?" Do not fret, there is a reason

why you have a white fridge... it can be converted into a snowman!



5. Ever wonder if regular trees get jealous of Christmas trees? Move your regular everyday tree branches up to the big leagues. A bit of salt in a flower vase gives you a nice base to display tree branches and create a snowy wonderland visual. Welcome regular branches to "The Show."



6. Did you get one of those new handy dandy instant brewing coffee machines, only to realize you now have two hundred unused coffee filters that are now destined for the landfill? Get the kids to work with some scissors and make some snowflakes! Just fold, cut, and repeat.



7. Fake snow in a can. Put it on anything. Instant Christmas.



8. When you're setting the table get creative with your napkins. Make elf hats, shoes or bow-ties. It's called YouTube and it will show you how.



9. We all love getting Christmas cards. Don't let the adorable photo of your little nephew Ben sit in a pile of bills and flyers. Use some clothespins and make a wreath/ card display.



10. Tradition dictates a star or an angel on top of the tree. But if you live with an adventurous four-legged friend, sometimes they get ideas. Don't fight it, go with it. 

Léo Joseph



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